Search for exotic resonances decaying into WZ/ZZ in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV

The CMS Collaboration

Abstract

A search for new exotic particles decaying to the VZ final state is performed, where V is either a W or a Z boson decaying into two overlapping jets and the Z decays into a pair of electrons, muons or neutrinos. The analysis uses a data sample of pp collisions corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 5 fb$^{-1}$ collected by the CMS experiment at the LHC at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV in 2011. No significant excess is observed in the mass distribution of the VZ candidates compared with the background expectation from standard model processes. Model-dependent upper limits at the 95% confidence level are set on the product of the cross section times the branching fraction of hypothetical particles decaying to the VZ final state as a function of mass. Sequential standard model W$'$ bosons with masses between 700 and 940 GeV are excluded. In the Randall–Sundrum model for graviton resonances with a coupling parameter of 0.05, masses between 750 and 880 GeV are also excluded.

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1 Introduction

In many extensions of the standard model (SM) of particle physics [1–3], the spontaneous breaking of the electroweak (EW) symmetry [4–9] is associated with new strong dynamics appearing at the TeV scale. For instance, the origin of the new dynamics may be due to new interactions [10–12], compact extra dimensions [13, 14], or a composite Higgs boson [15, 16]. In such scenarios the SM is an effective low-energy theory, valid for energies smaller than a new-physics scale \( \Lambda \). In these theories, one expects the existence of new resonances coupling to pairs of vector bosons (ZZ, WZ, and WW). A minimal ultraviolet completion of this effective theory for composite models is described in Ref. [17]. Other examples include Randall–Sundrum (RS) gravitons \( G_{\text{KK}} \) [13, 14] coupled to ZZ and WW, or technimesons [18, 19] coupled to WZ. Limits from previous searches and from indirect bounds (e.g. in the EW sector and flavor physics) place the masses of these proposed RS resonances at or above the TeV scale [20–26]. These scenarios could be tested at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), as long as \( \Lambda \sim O(\text{TeV}) \), as suggested by the EW symmetry breaking scale. This analysis is sensitive to searches for resonances starting at 700 GeV and above. However, there are other theories that predict light resonances (e.g. low-scale technicolor) [18, 19].

In this Letter we present a search for heavy resonances decaying to WZ and ZZ final states, with one boson being a Z decaying to leptons, namely \( Z \to \ell^+ \ell^- (\ell = \mu, e) \) or \( \nu \nu \), and the second boson decays to hadrons, \( V (V=\text{W, Z}) \to q \bar{q} \). For heavy resonances the decay of each \( V \) produces a highly boosted system in which the two fermions are emitted within a small opening angle in the laboratory frame. The hadronization of the \( V \to q \bar{q} \) quarks would then produce two partially overlapping jets reconstructed as a single jet with mass close to the \( V \) mass, a topology very different from that of a typical quark or gluon jet. Monte Carlo (MC) simulations suggest that more than \( \sim 70\% \) of the decays would produce a merged-jet topology for resonances heavier than \( \sim 800 \) GeV. This feature is exploited in a VZ final state, to discriminate a possible signal from the SM background (mainly coming from Z+jets events).

Thus, in this study we consider three final states: one heavy jet and either \( Z \to e^+ e^- \), \( Z \to \mu^+ \mu^- \), or \( Z \to E_T^\text{miss} \), where \( E_T^\text{miss} \) is the characteristic signature of neutrino production. We characterize the signal as a peak in the invariant mass of the VZ system (transverse mass in the case of \( Z \to v \bar{v} \) decays). The search is performed with a data sample of pp collisions corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 5.0 fb\(^{-1}\) collected by the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector at the LHC at \( \sqrt{s} = 7 \) TeV in 2011.

Results are presented in terms of two benchmark scenarios: i) the Sequential Standard Model (SSM) in which a new gauge boson \( W' \) with the same couplings as the SM W boson decays to a WZ pair; ii) a RS graviton, \( G_{\text{KK}} \), decaying to ZZ. In both scenarios we search for resonances heavier than 700 GeV, where the considered boosted topology becomes relevant. The ratio of the 5-dimensional curvature to the reduced Planck mass (\( k/M_{\text{Pl}} \)), which acts as the coupling constant in the RS model, is typically used as the phenomenological parameter in RS graviton searches. For the RS graviton scenario we consider values of the coupling parameter \( k/M_{\text{Pl}} \) up to 0.3.

Previous searches have been carried out in the context of both the SSM \( W' \) and RS graviton theoretical models. The most stringent limits have been produced at the LHC by the ATLAS and CMS collaborations in a large number of final states: \( W' \to \ell v \) [27, 28], \( W' \to t \bar{b} \) [29, 30], \( W' \to WZ \to 3\ell v \) [31, 32], and \( G_{\text{KK}} \to \ell \ell \) [33, 34], \( G_{\text{KK}} \to \gamma \gamma \) [24, 34] and \( G_{\text{KK}} \to ZZ \to \ell \ell jj \) [35, 36].
2 The CMS Detector

Here a brief description of the CMS detector is given with an emphasis on the elements most relevant for this analysis. A more detailed description can be found elsewhere [37]. A cylindrical coordinate system about the beam axis is used, in which the polar angle $\theta$ is measured with respect to the counterclockwise beam direction and the azimuthal angle, $\phi$, is measured in the $x$-$y$ plane in radians, where the $x$ axis points towards the center of the LHC ring. The quantity $\eta$ is the pseudorapidity, defined as $\eta = -\ln[tan(\theta/2)]$. The layout comprises a superconducting solenoid providing a uniform magnetic field of 3.8 T. The bore of the solenoid is instrumented with various particle detection systems. The inner tracking system is composed of a pixel detector with three barrel layers at radii between 4.4 and 10.2 cm and a silicon strip tracker with 10 barrel detection layers extending outwards to a radius of 1.1 m. Each system is completed by two end-caps, extending the acceptance up to $|\eta| < 2.5$. A lead-tungstate crystal electromagnetic calorimeter with fine transverse ($\Delta\eta$, $\Delta\phi$) granularity and a brass/scintillator hadronic calorimeter surround the tracking volume and cover the region $|\eta| < 3$. CMS also has extensive forward calorimetry. The steel return yoke outside the solenoid is instrumented with gas-ionization detectors which are used to identify muons in the range $|\eta| < 2.4$. The barrel region is covered by drift tube chambers and the end cap region by cathode strip chambers, each complemented by resistive plate chambers.

3 Collision Data and Monte Carlo Samples

The preselection of the datasets for the analysis is different for the “dilepton” ($VZ \rightarrow q\bar{q} \ell^+ \ell^-$, $\ell = e, \mu$) and the “$E_{\text{miss}}^T$” ($VZ \rightarrow q\bar{q} $ + $\nu\nu$) channels. For the dilepton channels, we consider events that were recorded with double-electron or single-muon triggers. The trigger thresholds changed with time, as a consequence of the increasing peak luminosity and the changes in running conditions. The tightest thresholds used in the trigger (i.e. 40 GeV for the single-muon trigger and 17 GeV for the dielectron trigger) are looser than the corresponding offline analysis requirements. Typical trigger efficiencies exceed 83% (95%) for the electron (muon) triggers. For the $E_{\text{miss}}^T$ channel, we use triggers requiring at least one calorimetric jet and missing transverse energy. These triggers have efficiencies of more than 99% for events with a leading jet of transverse momentum $p_T > 160$ GeV and $E_{\text{miss}}^T > 300$ GeV after offline reconstruction and corrections, which allows resonances heavier than 1000 GeV to be probed with an efficiency above 20%. We use MC samples to study the signal and background. We consider the SM background processes that could contribute with two leptons and a (massive) jet in the final state. The summary of the signal samples is given in Table 1 and the background samples, in Table 2. The PYTHIA 6.424 [38] leading-order (LO) generator with tune Z2 [39] is used to generate the signal events and simulate the parton showering, with a full simulation of the detector based on GEANT4 9.4 package. Mass-dependent $K$ factors are applied. For the $G_{KK}$ analysis, next-to-leading order (NLO) corrections are calculated using the “two cutoff phase space slicing” method [40,41] in the diphoton final state. For the W$'$ analysis, the next-to-next-to-leading order (NNLO) corrections are calculated with FEWZ [42] in the leptonic final state. These $K$ factors are used for lack of better (N)NLO calculations for the final states considered. The background samples are generated using the MADGRAPH 5.1.1.0 matrix-element generator [43,44], while PYTHIA is used for the parton showering and hadronization, with the same version and tuning as for signal samples. The parton distribution function (PDF) used is CTEQ6L1 [45]. Jets are matched to partons using the MLM scheme [46].
4 Reconstruction and Event Selection

Events are required to have at least one primary vertex of good quality, where the vertex is reconstructed within ±24 cm of the nominal interaction point along the beam axis, with a transverse distance from the beam spot of less than 2 cm [47]. The events are reconstructed with the particle-flow (PF) technique [48]. The PF algorithm reconstructs a complete list of particle candidates used to reconstruct the jets, to mitigate the effects of multiple proton-proton interactions within the same bunch crossing (pileup). Electrons are reconstructed as isolated objects in the calorimeters which satisfy requirements on the shower shape and the ratio of the hadronic to the electromagnetic energy deposits. Due to the boosted topology of this analysis, some care is needed when reconstructing the $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ decay: each reconstructed electron interferes with the isolation definition of the other electron and has to be excluded from the isolation calculation in order to avoid introducing inefficiencies. The isolation criterion for electrons is the combined relative isolation $R_{\text{iso}}$ built upon information from the tracker, ECAL and HCAL. In calculating $R_{\text{iso}}$, the track momenta and energy deposits, excluding those associated with the electron itself, are summed in a cone of radius $\Delta R < 0.3$ around the electron direction, where $\Delta R \equiv \sqrt{(\Delta \phi)^2 + (\Delta \eta)^2}$, and divided by the electron transverse momentum. Muon tracks are built by combining a track from the inner tracker and a track from the outer muon system. No explicit isolation requirement is imposed on the muon candidates. Lepton (electron and muon) candidates are required to have a transverse (longitudinal) distance to the leading vertex smaller than 2 (5) mm. Jets are clustered from the reconstructed PF particles using the infrared-safe anti-$k_T$ [49] algorithm with a distance parameter of 0.7, as implemented in
4.1 Dilepton channels

Candidate events are required to have at least two good quality reconstructed leptons within the detector acceptance ($|\eta| < 2.5$ for electrons and $|\eta| < 2.4$ for muons, with at least one muon within $|\eta| < 2.1$ at the trigger level) with $p_T > 45$ GeV. We also require at least one jet in the event reconstructed with $p_T > 30$ GeV within $|\eta| < 2.4$.

Whenever two same-flavor, opposite-sign leptons are found in the event, a $Z$ candidate is formed summing the four-momenta of the leptons. We select the $Z$ candidates by requiring their invariant mass to be in the range $70 < M_Z < 110$ GeV and with a transverse momentum $p_T^Z > 150$ GeV. If there are multiple $Z$ candidates, the one with mass closest to the nominal $Z$ mass is selected. The requirement that the dimuon mass is consistent with a $Z \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ decay strongly suppresses non-prompt muons from jets.

The $V$ candidate is selected by requiring a reconstructed jet with $p_T > 250$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$, having an invariant mass $M_j$ (computed from the jet energy and momentum calculated as the vector sum of the four-momenta of the constituent PF particles) such that $65 < M_j < 120$ GeV. We require the jet to be well separated from the two leptons forming the $Z$ candidate: $\Delta R \equiv \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2} > 1.0$ for each lepton, where $\Delta\eta$ ($\Delta\phi$) is the pseudorapidity (azimuthal) distance between the jet and the lepton directions. The selection has been optimized by maximizing the quantity $N_S/\sqrt{N_S + N_B}$ (where $N_S$ and $N_B$ are the number of expected signal and
background events) for the lowest W’ mass point (700 GeV) considered in this search.

Once the $Z \to \ell\ell$ and (mono-jet) $V \to q\bar{q}$ candidates have been reconstructed, we combine their four momenta to compute the mass of the parent particle, $M_{VZ}$. This variable is used to evaluate the hypothesis of the signal presence in the data sets analyzed.

4.2 $E_T^{miss}$ channel

For the $E_T^{miss}$ channel, background from W-boson decays is reduced through rejection of events with isolated electrons or muons with $p_T > 20$ GeV. In order to further reduce leptonic backgrounds, we veto on the presence of isolated tracks. For all tracks with $p_T > 10$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$, a hollow cone of $0.02 < \Delta R < 0.30$ is constructed. The isolation parameter of each track is defined as the scalar sum of all tracks with $p_T > 1$ GeV inside the cone, divided by the $p_T$ of the track. Events containing a track with its isolation parameter smaller than 0.1 are discarded. Events are then selected if the jet with the highest transverse momentum has $p_T > 300$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$, and $E_T^{miss}$ is larger than 300 GeV. In order to reduce the number of QCD multijet background events in the signal region, events with more than two jets with $p_T > 30$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$ are discarded. Events with exactly two jets above 30 GeV are retained, if the azimuthal angle $\Delta \phi$ between the two jets is smaller than 2.8 radians. This condition improves the signal over background ratio by reducing the number of QCD dijet background events.

The signal sample is defined as the set of events that meet two extra requirements: the invariant mass of the leading jet, $M_j$, is larger than 70 GeV, and the jet-$E_T^{miss}$ transverse mass, defined as

$$M_T = \sqrt{2 p_T^{jet} E_T^{miss} \left[ 1 - \cos \Delta \phi(jet, p_T^{miss}) \right]} ,$$

is larger than 900 GeV. Figure 1 on the left (right) shows the two-dimensional $M_T$ vs $M_j$ distribution for the simulated SM backgrounds (for a simulated signal sample with $M_{GKK} = 1250$ GeV).

In contrast to the approach used for the dilepton channels, here we perform a single “event counting” experiment by comparing the number of expected background and observed events integrated over the region $M_j > 70$ GeV and $M_T > 900$ GeV.

5 Background Estimation

We are discussing the background estimation separately for the dilepton and $E_T^{miss}$ channels.

5.1 Dilepton channels

The analysis of the simulated data shows that the dominant (∼90%) background after all selection requirements is the inclusive Z production (“Z+jets”), with additional contributions from $t\bar{t}$+jets and the continuum SM diboson production (WZ and ZZ). The shape and the overall normalization of the expected background $M_{VZ}$ distributions are derived from data, with additional cross-checks carried out with the inclusive simulated background samples. Effects caused by pileup are modeled by adding to the generated events multiple proton-proton interactions with a multiplicity distribution matched to the luminosity profile of the collision data.

The background is modeled using a control region consisting of a sideband in $M_j$ ($30 < M_j < 65$ GeV). The remaining selections are applied unmodified to these events, providing a sample that is kinematically equivalent to the nominal selection. The robustness of this method against
5 Background Estimation

Figure 1: Distributions of leading jet plus $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ transverse mass vs. leading jet mass for simulated standard model background sample (left) and RS graviton signal with $M_{GKK} = 1250$ GeV and $k/M_{\text{Pl}} = 0.05$ sample (right).

pileup effects, jet energy scale uncertainties, and variations in the sideband range has been confirmed with dedicated studies (Section 6).

The procedure is as follows: we first produce the $M_{VZ}$ distribution for the sideband selection. We define the ratio $\alpha(M_{VZ})$ as the total number of Monte Carlo background entries in the $M_{VZ}$ spectrum with the nominal ($65 < M_J < 120$ GeV) and sideband ($30 < M_J < 65$ GeV) selections:

$$\alpha(M_{VZ}) = \frac{N_{\text{NS}}(M_{VZ})}{N_{\text{SB}}(M_{VZ})}$$

where $N_{\text{NS}}(M_{VZ})$ is the number of events in the signal region and $N_{\text{SB}}(M_{VZ})$ is the number of events in the sideband region, contained in a bin of the VZ mass distribution centered at a given value $M_{VZ}$. We then use the product of the $M_{VZ}$ distribution made with the sideband selection in the data and the ratio $\alpha(M_{VZ})$ to derive an estimate of the background $M_{VZ}$ distribution with the nominal selection. Following the example of other resonance searches [55], we fit the $\alpha$-corrected sideband data $M_{VZ}$ distribution to the following analytic function $f_A(M_{VZ})$, and the fit result is used to parametrize the expected SM background distribution:

$$f_A(M_{VZ}) = p_0 \left( \frac{1 - (\frac{M_{VZ}}{\sqrt{s}}))^{p_1}}{(\frac{M_{VZ}}{\sqrt{s}})^{p_2 + p_3 \log(\frac{M_{VZ}}{\sqrt{s}})}} \right),$$

where $\sqrt{s}$ is the collision energy, $p_i, i = 0, ..., 3$ are free parameters of the fit, and $M_{VZ}$ is expressed in GeV. The fit determines both the shape and the overall normalization of the expected background as a function of $M_{VZ}$. The fitting functions are then used to describe the expected background in any subregion of the $M_{VZ}$ spectrum in the electron and muon channels. There are several advantages in using the ratio $\alpha(M_{VZ})$ for the background modeling of the $M_{VZ}$ distributions: the background estimation becomes insensitive to effects such pile-up corrections and integrated luminosity uncertainty which cancel out in the ratio; $\alpha(M_{VZ})$ is less sensitive to improper modeling of the matrix element calculation for the background and to
5.2 $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ channel

theory systematics (e.g. normalization and factorization scale, PDFs, etc.) since the background composition is similar in the two regions.

Figure 2: The comparison of the estimated background (black curve) with the total MC background (blue histogram) and the data (black points) for $M_{VZ}$ distributions for the electron (left) and the muon (right) channels.

The comparison of the estimated background with the prediction from the simulation and the data $M_{VZ}$ distributions is shown in Fig. 2. No significant excess of events is observed, with the largest deviation appearing in the $\sim 900$ GeV region in the muon channel. The tail of the $M_{VZ}$ distribution, which is the region of interest for the new resonance search, is well described by the fit. A discrepancy is observed at low $M_{VZ}$ values. Any modeling imperfections, quantified as the difference between the best-fit function and the MC simulation estimation, are taken into account in the limit calculation by assigning a systematic uncertainty.

5.2 $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ channel

By analyzing simulated data we determine that the dominant backgrounds in this channel after all selections are inclusive $Z \rightarrow \nu \bar{\nu}$ ($\sim 70\%$) and $W \rightarrow \ell \nu$ ($\sim 30\%$) production, with the charged lepton remaining undetected in the latter. To estimate the SM background, we use a sideband-based technique similar to that described above, which utilizes events that meet all other requirements but the $M_j$ and $M_T$ thresholds. In particular, the events which meet all the selection requirements are classified into four regions according to two thresholds in jet mass and two thresholds in $M_T$:

- Signal region A: $M_j > 70$ GeV, $M_T > 900$ GeV;
- Sideband region B: $20 < M_j < 70$ GeV, $M_T > 900$ GeV;
- Sideband region C: $20 < M_j < 70$ GeV, $700 < M_T < 900$ GeV;
- Sideband region D: $M_j > 70$ GeV, $700 < M_T < 900$ GeV;

The numbers of events observed in the above regions are denoted as $N_A, ..., N_D$. 
The estimated total background $B_{\text{est}}$ in Region A is given by the expression

$$B_{\text{est}} = N_D \cdot \frac{N_B}{N_C} \cdot \frac{1}{\rho}$$

(1)

where $\rho$ is a correction factor to account for the correlation between the jet mass and the jet-$E_T^\text{miss}$ transverse mass. The $\rho$ parameter is estimated from the simulated SM samples by rearranging Eq. (1) in the following way:

$$\rho = \frac{N_D \cdot N_B}{N_A \cdot N_C}$$

(2)

and setting the values of $N_A, \ldots, N_D$ to the ones from the SM prediction. Using the values reported in Table 3 gives $\rho = 0.42 \pm 0.02$. The value of $\rho$ thus derived in then reinserted in Eq. (1).

Setting $N_B, N_C, N_D$ to the yields observed in the data, we obtain an estimate of the remaining background $B_{\text{est}} = 153 \pm 20$ events. Figures 3 (left) and 3 (right) show the comparison between the simulated SM background in Region A (scaled to the estimated value $B_{\text{est}}$—a scale factor of 11%) and data, together with an example signal for the $M_j$ and $M_T$ distributions. There is agreement between the expected background and data distributions.

Table 3: Event yields for simulated SM samples, data, and the data/simulation ratio in the four regions described in the text. The quoted uncertainties include those due to the finite statistics of the simulated samples.

| Region | Yield | Data | SM Simulation | Data/Sim Ratio |
|--------|-------|------|---------------|----------------|
| A: signal | $N_A$ | 138 | 131 ± 3 | 1.05 ± 0.02 |
| B: sideband | $N_B$ | 125 | 125 ± 3 | 1.00 ± 0.03 |
| C: sideband | $N_C$ | 542 | 579 ± 7 | 0.94 ± 0.01 |
| D: sideband | $N_D$ | 283 | 259 ± 5 | 1.09 ± 0.02 |

Figure 3: Comparison between $\rho$-corrected simulated backgrounds and data in Region A for the leading jet mass (left) and jet-$E_T^\text{miss}$ transverse mass (right) distributions.
6 Systematic Uncertainties

The systematic uncertainties that are considered in this analysis can be divided into two main categories: the uncertainty in the determination of the SM background and the uncertainty in the expected yields of signal events. All the systematic uncertainties are summarized in Tables 4 and 5 for the dilepton and $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ channels, respectively. The total systematic uncertainty is the combination of the signal and background systematic effects, assuming they are completely uncorrelated.

6.1 Background systematic effects

As we employ a method based on control samples in data for the background determination, several systematic effects are eliminated. In the following, we consider the remaining relevant uncertainties in detail for the dilepton and $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ channels.

6.1.1 Dilepton channels

The expected number of background events in each mass window is determined by the integral of the function $f_A(M_{VZ})$ in the corresponding region. The statistical uncertainty is calculated by employing the full covariance error matrix of the fit parameter uncertainties in the integral of the fitting function in the mass window. The pileup and jet energy scale (JES) systematics can potentially affect the background determination through the $\alpha(M_{VZ})$ ratio and are considered separately. The former is found to have a negligible effect. For the latter, the uncertainty is evaluated by varying the jet $p_T$ to $p_T \pm \sigma_{\text{JES}}(p_T, \eta)$, where $\sigma_{\text{JES}}(p_T, \eta)$ is the total jet uncertainty, and applying the full fitting procedure. The yield differences, in each mass window, between the expected background with the positive ($N_{+\text{Bgd}}$) and negative ($N_{-\text{Bgd}}$) jet energy scale variation with respect to the nominal selection and fit are taken as the $\pm 1\sigma$ estimates for the JES systematic uncertainty. We also consider several variations in the fitting procedure (fitting range, functional form, and sideband definition). These variations are compared to the difference in the number of expected background events in the mass window as estimated from data and with MC simulation. The largest of the two is used as the systematic uncertainty in the background determination.

6.1.2 $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ channel

To evaluate the robustness of the evaluation of the expected background two tests are conducted.

The first test studies the dependence of the correction factor $\rho$ on the definition of the sideband regions. We vary the definition of the sideband regions by changing the thresholds in the $M_j$ and $M_T$ variables in the intervals 20–70 GeV and 650–750 GeV, respectively. We find that the resultant variation in the mean estimated background is typically 5% or less, confirming the robustness of the sideband method.

A second test is used to check the propagation of all the uncertainties involved in the $B_{\text{est}}$ calculations. We generate a series of pseudo-experiments with the number of events constrained to be equal to that of the actual experiment. We obtain a value of $\rho$ and calculate the mean estimated background in each case. The distribution of the values of $B_{\text{est}}$ thus obtained has a variance of 20 events. This result is in agreement with the estimated uncertainty on $B_{\text{est}}$ obtained in Section 5.2, using the yields of $N_B$, $N_C$ and $N_D$ observed in the data.

The mean expected SM background in Region A, within the uncertainties calculated above, is compatible with the observed event yield in the signal region, $N_A = 138$ events.
Table 4: Systematic uncertainties in the dilepton channels for given mass point and optimized mass window for the background (columns 3–6) and signal (columns 7–8) expected yields, following the procedures described in the text. In addition to the estimated signal uncertainties listed in the Table, constant uncertainties are considered on the integrated luminosity (2.2%), the lepton reconstruction and trigger efficiencies as determined by the “tag and probe” method (2%) \[56\] and the V mass selection as determined from a sample of boosted tt events (9%).

| Mass Point (GeV) | Mass Window (GeV) | Background Stat. (%) | Background Fit variations (%) | Background Diff. w/ JES MC (%) | Background JES (%) | Background PDF (%) | Signal Stat. (%) | Signal Fit variations (%) | Signal Diff. w/ JES MC (%) | Signal JES (%) | Signal PDF (%) |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| W model, electron channel | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 700             | 640-760           | 8                    | 3                           | 1                             | 4                 | 1                | 4                |
| 800             | 755-845           | 8                    | 21                          | 1                             | 5                 | 1                | 5                |
| 900             | 855-945           | 9                    | 21                          | 2                             | 7                 | 1                | 5                |
| 1000            | 930-1070          | 11                   | 17                          | 5                             | 2                 | 1                | 6                |
| 1100            | 1020-1180         | 12                   | 22                          | 4                             | 3                 | 1                | 6                |
| 1200            | 1130-1270         | 15                   | 26                          | 6                             | 7                 | 1                | 6                |
| 1300            | 1220-1380         | 17                   | 46                          | 6                             | 41                | 1                | 7                |
| 1400            | 1320-1480         | 20                   | 64                          | 28                            | 14                | 1                | 8                |
| 1500            | 1390-1610         | 23                   | 72                          | 31                            | 26                | 1                | 9                |
| RS model, electron channel | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 750             | 690-810           | 8                    | 14                          | 3                             | 2                 | 1                | 4                |
| 1000            | 940-1060          | 11                   | 17                          | 5                             | 7                 | 1                | 6                |
| 1250            | 1180-1320         | 16                   | 36                          | 3                             | 8                 | 1                | 7                |
| 1500            | 1390-1610         | 23                   | 72                          | 3                             | 26                | 1                | 9                |
| 1750            | 1540-1960         | 31                   | 64                          | 10                            | 48                | 1                | 10               |
| 2000            | 1760-2240         | 42                   | 42                          | 26                            | 110               | 1                | 11               |
| W model, muon channel | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 700             | 640-760           | 7                    | 10                          | 4                             | 6                 | 1                | 4                |
| 800             | 755-845           | 8                    | 19                          | 6                             | 8                 | 1                | 5                |
| 900             | 855-945           | 9                    | 16                          | 2                             | 8                 | 1                | 5                |
| 1000            | 930-1070          | 10                   | 15                          | 8                             | 1                 | 1                | 6                |
| 1100            | 1020-1180         | 12                   | 20                          | 8                             | 1                 | 1                | 6                |
| 1200            | 1130-1270         | 14                   | 29                          | 21                            | 2                 | 1                | 7                |
| 1300            | 1220-1380         | 16                   | 43                          | 30                            | 6                 | 1                | 7                |
| 1400            | 1320-1480         | 19                   | 50                          | 68                            | 10                | 1                | 8                |
| 1500            | 1390-1610         | 22                   | 46                          | 54                            | 24                | 1                | 9                |
| RS model, muon channel | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 750             | 690-810           | 7                    | 14                          | 2                             | 7                 | 1                | 4                |
| 1000            | 940-1060          | 10                   | 15                          | 6                             | 7                 | 1                | 6                |
| 1250            | 1180-1320         | 15                   | 37                          | 4                             | 1                 | 1                | 7                |
| 1500            | 1390-1610         | 22                   | 46                          | 54                            | 24                | 1                | 9                |
| 1750            | 1540-1960         | 30                   | 33                          | 31                            | 52                | 1                | 11               |
| 2000            | 1760-2240         | 40                   | 64                          | 23                            | 130               | 1                | 11               |
Table 5: Systematic uncertainties in the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ channel for the expected signal yields for the $W'$ mass range $M_{W'} \in [700, 1500]$ GeV and graviton mass range $M_{G_{KK}} \in [750, 2000]$ GeV.

| Mass Point (GeV) | PDF (%) | JES (%) | $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ (%) | Total (%) |
|-----------------|---------|---------|--------------------------|-----------|
| W model         |         |         |                          |           |
| 700             | 4       | 9       | 9                        | 13        |
| 800             | 5       | 8       | 8                        | 12        |
| 900             | 5       | 8       | 8                        | 12        |
| 1000            | 5       | 7       | 7                        | 11        |
| 1100            | 6       | 5       | 6                        | 10        |
| 1200            | 6       | 2       | 4                        | 7         |
| 1300            | 7       | 1       | 3                        | 8         |
| 1400            | 8       | 1       | 3                        | 9         |
| 1500            | 8       | 1       | 3                        | 9         |
| RS model        |         |         |                          |           |
| 750             | 4       | 7       | 7                        | 10        |
| 1000            | 4       | 1       | 3                        | 5         |
| 1250            | 4       | 1       | 3                        | 5         |
| 1500            | 4       | 1       | 3                        | 5         |
| 1750            | 4       | 1       | 3                        | 5         |
| 2000            | 4       | 1       | 3                        | 5         |

6.2 Signal systematics

There are several systematic uncertainties in the expected signal yields that are common across channels. These uncertainties are on the luminosity measurement, the JES effects on jets, the PDF, and the trigger and reconstruction efficiencies. A value of 2.2% was taken for the uncertainty in the measurement of the integrated luminosity [57].

To determine the effect of JES uncertainty, we vary the jet $p_T$ to $p_T \pm \sigma_{\text{JES}}(p_T, \eta)$, where $\sigma_{\text{JES}}(p_T, \eta)$ is the total jet uncertainty, and apply the full analysis selection. The differences in the signal yields $N_{+\text{sig}}$ and $N_{-\text{sig}}$ with respect to the nominal selection $N_{\text{sig}}$ are taken as the $\pm 1\sigma$ estimates for the JES systematic uncertainty. For $W'$ and RS signals with the mass in the range [700, 2000] GeV in the dilepton channels and in the range [1250, 2000] GeV in the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ channel, this systematic uncertainty is less than 1%. However, for resonance masses in the range [700, 1200] GeV in the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ channel this systematic uncertainty is found to be between 2 and 9%, owing to threshold effects. To estimate the systematic uncertainty associated with the choice of the PDF used for the simulated samples, three scenarios are considered: CTEQ6.6, MSTW2008 and NNPDF2.0 [58]. The systematic uncertainty is set to half of the difference between the maximum and the minimum PDF values predicted for each mass point [59].

6.2.1 Dilepton channels

To account for differences in trigger and reconstruction efficiencies between the Monte Carlo simulation and data, we determine scaling factors by using data control samples of $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$ and $Z \rightarrow ee$ candidate events [60, 61]. We derive corrections for the muon $(0.974 \pm 0.001)$ and the electron $(0.960 \pm 0.004)$ channels and we apply them to the expected signal yields. These numbers assume that the efficiency does not vary with $p_T$ ($E_T$). However, we observe a small decrease (increase) in the efficiency in the asymptotic high-$p_T$ (high-$E_T$) region for muons (electrons) of about 2%. This small difference is used as the systematic uncertainty in the expected number of signal events for each mass point considered in this study. Finally, we assign a
9% systematic uncertainty on the V mass selection efficiency. This is determined by studying an independent sample of boosted $t\bar{t} \rightarrow WbWb$ events in which one of the W bosons decays leptonically and the other hadronically.

### 6.2.2 $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ channel

Propagating the jet energy scale effects to the calculation of $E_T^{\text{miss}}$, and accounting for the anticorrelation between jets and $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ itself, we estimate a systematic effect of around 3% for all values of $M_G$ studied, except for the lowest $M_G = 750 \text{ GeV}$. In this case, because of threshold effects, the systematic effect is found to be around 7%.

Summing in quadrature the uncertainties above, we arrive at a final 5% systematic uncertainty on the signal acceptance and efficiency except for $M_G = 750 \text{ GeV}$, where a value of 10% is obtained for the final systematic uncertainty on the signal acceptance and efficiency.

# 7 Results

We do not observe any significant excess over the expected background. We employ the modified frequentist CL$_S$ statistical method \cite{62, 63} to search for exotic VZ resonances. For the dilepton channels we use a series of search windows corresponding to different mass hypotheses. Each mass window is optimized to give the best exclusion limit, a procedure which is also appropriate for establishing a new resonance discovery. The mass windows optimization has been carried out separately for the $W'$ and RS graviton hypotheses to account for differences in the width and efficiencies. For the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ channel we perform a single counting experiment in the $M_T > 900 \text{ GeV}$ and $M_j > 70 \text{ GeV}$ region. We calculate 95% confidence level (CL) exclusion limits on the combined products of the cross section times the branching ratio $\sigma(pp \rightarrow W') \times B(W' \rightarrow WZ)$ and $\sigma(pp \rightarrow G_{KK}) \times B(G_{KK} \rightarrow ZZ)$ for the three final states under study (separately and combined) as a function of the mass of the hypothetical resonance.

We interpret these exclusion limits in two benchmark signal models: SSM $W'$ and RS graviton.

The limit setting is performed by looking for an excess over the expected background in the VZ mass distributions for the three channels separately. Tables 6 and 7 show the search windows for each mass point with the corresponding signal efficiency and the numbers of expected background and observed events in the electron and muon channels, respectively. These numbers are used as input for the calculation of the expected and observed exclusion limits on cross section times branching ratios at 95% CL that are also reported in the same Tables. Table 8 shows the signal efficiency and the observed and expected exclusion limits as a function of the signal mass in the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ channel. The combined results are reported in Table 9. The exclusion limits as a function of the VZ resonance mass can be seen in Fig. 4, where a linear interpolation is used between the benchmark mass values. These limits can be interpreted in the theoretical framework of the $W'$ and RS graviton models. We exclude SSM $W'$ bosons with masses in the range 700–940 (890) GeV in the SSM at NNLO (LO) at 95% CL. These results are complementary to the ones obtained in the tri-lepton analysis (with $M_W' > 1143 \text{ GeV}$ in the SSM \cite{64}). The exclusion limit calculated in the RS graviton model rules out masses $(M_{G_{KK}})$ in the range 750–880 (800) GeV for $k/M_{Pl} = 0.05$ at NLO (LO). Assuming the resonance width is much smaller than the experimental resolution for the range of $k/M_{Pl}$ considered here, the limit can be translated into the $M_{G_{KK}}-k/M_{Pl}$ plane. We do this by using the quadratic dependence of the cross section on $k/M_{Pl}$, and by assuming that the signal efficiency remains the same. The result is shown in Fig. 5.

These results are particularly relevant in the context of RS models proposed in recent studies.
with SM fields propagating in the extra dimension where the graviton coupling to light fermions is strongly suppressed. This opens the possibility to an enhancement of the branching fractions for final states with V pairs, and motivates the investigation of large values of \( k / M_{\mathrm{Pl}} \). In this scenario the previously-published searches for RS gravitons decaying to \( \gamma \gamma \) and \( \ell^+ \ell^- \) final states [24] do not impose stringent bounds, since the branching fraction for these final states is suppressed. The results derived in this analysis are currently the most stringent in the V pair channel, and provide important constraints that are complementary to the ones from the search for resonances decaying to boosted top pairs [66].

Table 6: Electron channel: Search window for each mass point with the corresponding signal efficiency (“\( \epsilon_{\text{sig}} \)” and the numbers of mean expected background (“\( N_{\text{bgd}} \)” and observed (“\( N_{\text{obs}} \)” events. The uncertainties include both statistical and systematic effects. These numbers are used as input for the calculation of the expected and observed exclusion limits on \( \sigma(\text{pp} \rightarrow W') \times B(W' \rightarrow WZ) \) and \( \sigma(\text{pp} \rightarrow G_{KK} ) \times B(G_{KK} \rightarrow ZZ) \) at 95% CL which are reported in the last two columns.

| Mass Point (GeV) | Window (GeV) | \( N_{\text{bgd}} \) | \( N_{\text{obs}} \) | \( \epsilon_{\text{sig}} \) (%) | Obs. Limit (pb) | Exp. Limit (pb) |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| \( W \) model   |              |                      |                      |                      |                 |                 |
| 700             | 640-760      | 39.7 ± 3.9           | 43                   | 37 ± 4               | 0.44            | 0.37            |
| 800             | 755-845      | 24.6 ± 5.7           | 23                   | 36 ± 4               | 0.33            | 0.35            |
| 900             | 855-945      | 17.1 ± 4.2           | 12                   | 40 ± 4               | 0.18            | 0.24            |
| 1000            | 930-1070     | 17.1 ± 3.5           | 17                   | 49 ± 5               | 0.20            | 0.20            |
| 1100            | 1020-1180    | 12.0 ± 3.0           | 13                   | 48 ± 5               | 0.20            | 0.18            |
| 1200            | 1130-1270    | 6.3 ± 1.9            | 5                    | 41 ± 5               | 0.13            | 0.15            |
| 1300            | 1220-1380    | 4.4 ± 2.8            | 6                    | 32 ± 4               | 0.25            | 0.20            |
| 1400            | 1320-1480    | 2.7 ± 1.8            | 2                    | 23 ± 3               | 0.18            | 0.19            |
| 1500            | 1390-1610    | 2.5 ± 2.0            | 2                    | 19 ± 2               | 0.22            | 0.22            |
| \( RS \) model  |              |                      |                      |                      |                 |                 |
| 750             | 690-810      | 37.1 ± 6.0           | 32                   | 27 ± 3               | 0.21            | 0.25            |
| 1000            | 940-1060     | 14.6 ± 3.1           | 16                   | 35 ± 4               | 0.14            | 0.13            |
| 1250            | 1180-1320    | 4.9 ± 1.9            | 7                    | 35 ± 4               | 0.11            | 0.08            |
| 1500            | 1390-1610    | 2.5 ± 2.0            | 2                    | 27 ± 3               | 0.08            | 0.08            |
| 1750            | 1540-1960    | 2.0 ± 1.7            | 1                    | 16 ± 2               | 0.10            | 0.12            |
| 2000            | 1760-2240    | 1.3 ± 1.6            | 0                    | 17 ± 2               | 0.06            | 0.05            |

8 Summary

A search for new exotic particles decaying to the VZ final state was performed, where V is either a W or a Z decaying to hadrons, and the Z decays to electrons, muons, or a neutrino pair. The analysis is based on a data sample of pp collisions corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 5.0 fb\(^{-1}\) collected by the CMS experiment at the LHC at √\( s \) = 7 TeV in 2011. No significant excess is observed in the mass distribution of the VZ candidates compared with the background expectation from standard model processes. Lower bounds at the 95% confidence level are set in two theoretical models on the mass of hypothetical particles decaying to the VZ final state. Assuming heavy charged vector bosons in the sequential standard model, W’ bosons are excluded with masses in the range 700–940 (890) GeV at NNLO (LO). In the Randall–Sundrum model, graviton resonances with masses in the range 750–880 (800) GeV at NLO (LO)
Table 7: Muon channel: Search window for each mass point with the corresponding signal efficiency (“$\epsilon_{\text{sig}}$”) and the numbers of mean expected background (“$N_{\text{bgd}}$”) and observed (“$N_{\text{obs}}$”) events. The uncertainties include both statistical and systematic effects. These numbers are used as input for the calculation of the expected and observed exclusion limits on $\sigma(pp \to W') \times B(W' \to WZ)$ and $\sigma(pp \to G_{KK}) \times B(G_{KK} \to ZZ)$ at 95% CL, which are reported in the last two columns.

| Mass Point (GeV) | Window (GeV) | $N_{\text{bgd}}$ | $N_{\text{obs}}$ | $\epsilon_{\text{sig}}$ (%) | Obs. Limit (pb) | Exp. Limit (pb) |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| **W model**      |              |                   |                  |                               |                |                |
| 700              | 640-760      | 48.7 ± 8.9        | 45               | 40±4                          | 0.40           | 0.45           |
| 800              | 755-845      | 28.6 ± 6.9        | 21               | 40±4                          | 0.25           | 0.34           |
| 900              | 855-945      | 19.2 ± 4.3        | 23               | 41±4                          | 0.37           | 0.29           |
| 1000             | 930-1070     | 18.7 ± 3.7        | 26               | 51±6                          | 0.34           | 0.22           |
| 1100             | 1020-1180    | 12.9 ± 3.1        | 12               | 52±6                          | 0.17           | 0.18           |
| 1200             | 1130-1270    | 6.7 ± 2.2         | 8                | 44±5                          | 0.18           | 0.15           |
| 1300             | 1220-1380    | 4.6 ± 2.1         | 4                | 42±5                          | 0.13           | 0.13           |
| 1400             | 1320-1480    | 2.9 ± 2.0         | 1                | 39±5                          | 0.08           | 0.11           |
| 1500             | 1390-1610    | 2.6 ± 1.7         | 2                | 40±5                          | 0.11           | 0.11           |
| **RS model**     |              |                   |                  |                               |                |                |
| 750              | 690-810      | 44.1 ± 9.2        | 34               | 30±3                          | 0.19           | 0.26           |
| 1000             | 940-1060     | 15.9 ± 3.4        | 20               | 39±4                          | 0.17           | 0.13           |
| 1250             | 1180-1320    | 5.2 ± 2.1         | 6                | 41±5                          | 0.08           | 0.07           |
| 1500             | 1390-1610    | 2.6 ± 1.7         | 2                | 44±6                          | 0.05           | 0.05           |
| 1750             | 1540-1960    | 2.1 ± 1.4         | 2                | 32±5                          | 0.06           | 0.06           |
| 2000             | 1760-2240    | 1.3 ± 1.9         | 2                | 42±6                          | 0.06           | 0.05           |
Table 8: E\text{miss} channel: Expected and observed exclusion limits on $\sigma(pp \rightarrow W') \times B(W' \rightarrow WZ)$ and $\sigma(pp \rightarrow G_{KK}) \times B(G_{KK} \rightarrow ZZ)$ at 95% CL for each mass point with the corresponding signal efficiency ("$\epsilon_{\text{sig}}$ "). In the $M_T > 900$ GeV region the expected background is $B_{\text{est}} = 153 \pm 29$, including both statistical and systematic uncertainties, and the number of observed events is 138. These parameters are common for all mass points considered in this channel.

| Mass Point (GeV) | $\epsilon_{\text{sig}}$ (%) | Obs. Limit (pb) | Exp. Limit (pb) |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| W model          |                             |                 |                 |
| 700              | 0.2±0.1                     | 29              | 33              |
| 800              | 0.9±0.1                     | 7.0             | 8.2             |
| 900              | 8.0±0.5                     | 0.77            | 0.90            |
| 1000             | 31±2                        | 0.19            | 0.23            |
| 1100             | 49±2                        | 0.13            | 0.15            |
| 1200             | 58±3                        | 0.11            | 0.13            |
| 1300             | 64±3                        | 0.10            | 0.11            |
| 1400             | 66±3                        | 0.09            | 0.11            |
| 1500             | 69±3                        | 0.09            | 0.11            |
| RS model         |                             |                 |                 |
| 750              | 0.7±0.1                     | 4.1             | 4.8             |
| 1000             | 25±2                        | 0.12            | 0.14            |
| 1250             | 43±3                        | 0.07            | 0.08            |
| 1500             | 54±3                        | 0.06            | 0.07            |
| 1750             | 60±3                        | 0.05            | 0.06            |
| 2000             | 63±3                        | 0.05            | 0.06            |

Table 9: Combined channels: Expected and observed exclusion limits on $\sigma(pp \rightarrow W') \times B(W' \rightarrow WZ)$ and $\sigma(pp \rightarrow G_{KK}) \times B(G_{KK} \rightarrow ZZ)$ at 95% CL for the electron, muon, and $E_{T}\text{miss}$ channels combined for each mass point and search window.

| Mass Point (GeV) | Window     | Obs. Limit (pb) | Exp. Limit (pb) |
|------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| W model          |            |                 |                 |
| 700              | 640–760    | 0.30            | 0.25            |
| 800              | 755–845    | 0.14            | 0.21            |
| 900              | 855–945    | 0.19            | 0.18            |
| 1000             | 930–1070   | 0.19            | 0.15            |
| 1100             | 1020–1180  | 0.11            | 0.12            |
| 1200             | 1130–1270  | 0.09            | 0.09            |
| 1300             | 1220–1380  | 0.09            | 0.09            |
| 1400             | 1320–1480  | 0.05            | 0.08            |
| 1500             | 1390–1610  | 0.07            | 0.08            |
| RS model         |            |                 |                 |
| 750              | 690–810    | 0.12            | 0.16            |
| 1000             | 940–1060   | 0.13            | 0.09            |
| 1250             | 1180–1320  | 0.07            | 0.05            |
| 1500             | 1390–1610  | 0.04            | 0.04            |
| 1750             | 1540–1960  | 0.05            | 0.05            |
| 2000             | 1760–2240  | 0.04            | 0.03            |
Figure 4: Observed and expected 95% CL upper cross section limits and comparison with the theoretical predictions in W' (top) and RS graviton with \( k / M_{Pl} = 0.05 \) (bottom) models for the combination of electron, muon, and \( E_{T}^{miss} \) channels. The limits are calculated with the modified frequentist CL\(_S\) statistical method.
Figure 5: Observed exclusion limits from this analysis ($ZZ \rightarrow 1j2\ell/1j2\nu$) interpreted in the context of the RS graviton model, assuming a LO prediction (solid green line) and NLO prediction (dot-dashed green line). Also shown are results from ATLAS ($ZZ \rightarrow 2\ell 2j/4j$) [35] (dot-dot-dashed red line) and another CMS publication ($ZZ \rightarrow 2\ell 2j$) [36] (dotted blue line). The shaded region corresponds to the indirect limits derived from precision electroweak observables in [22].

are excluded for $k/M_{Pl} = 0.05$. These are the first results from the LHC on VZ searches using final states with a boosted massive jet and a lepton pair or missing transverse energy.

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A  The CMS Collaboration

Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia
S. Chatrchyan, V. Khachatryan, A.M. Sirunyan, A. Tumasyan

Institut für Hochenergiephysik der OeAW, Wien, Austria
W. Adam, E. Aguilo, T. Bergauer, M. Dragicevic, J. Erö, C. Fabjan\textsuperscript{1}, M. Friedl, R. Frühwirth\textsuperscript{1}, V.M. Ghete, J. Hammer, N. Hörmann, J. Hrubec, M. Jeitler\textsuperscript{1}, W. Kiesenhofer, V. Knünz, M. Krammer\textsuperscript{1}, I. Krätschmer, D. Liko, I. Mikulec, M. Pernicka\textsuperscript{1}, B. Rahbaran, C. Rohringer, H. Rohringer, R. Schöfbeck, J. Strauss, A. Taurok, W. Waltenberger, G. Walzel, E. Widl, C.-E. Wulz\textsuperscript{1}

National Centre for Particle and High Energy Physics, Minsk, Belarus
V. Mossolov, N. Shumeiko, J. Suarez Gonzalez

Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium
M. Bansal, S. Bansal, T. Cornelis, E.A. De Wolf, X. Janssen, S. Luyckx, L. Mucibello, S. Ochesanu, B. Roland, R. Rougny, M. Selvaggi, Z. Staykova, H. Van Haevermaet, P. Van Mechelen, N. Van Remortel, A. Van Spilbeeck

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium
F. Blekman, S. Blyweert, J. D’Hondt, R. Gonzalez Suarez, A. Kalogeropoulos, M. Maes, A. Olbrechts, W. Van Doninck, P. Van Mulders, G.P. Van Onsem, I. Villella

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium
B. Clerbaux, G. De Lentdecker, V. Dero, A.P.R. Gay, T. Hreus, A. Léonard, P.E. Marage, A. Mohammadi, T. Reis, L. Thomas, G. Vander Marcken, C. Vander Velde, P. Vanlaer, J. Wang

Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium
V. Adler, K. Beernaert, A. Cimmino, S. Costantini, G. Garcia, M. Grunewald, B. Klein, J. Lellouch, A. Marinov, J. Mccartin, A.A. Ocampo Rios, D. Ryckbosch, N. Strobbe, F. Thyssen, M. Tytgat, P. Verwilligen, S. Walsh, E. Yazgan, N. Zaganidis

Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
S. Basegmez, G. Bruno, R. Castello, L. Cerdà, C. Delaere, T. du Pree, D. Favart, L. Forthomme, A. Giammanco\textsuperscript{2}, J. Hollar, V. Lemaitre, J. Liao, O. Militaru, C. Nuttens, D. Pagano, A. Pin, K. Piotrzkowski, N. Schul, J.M. Vizan Garcia

Université de Mons, Mons, Belgium
N. Beliy, T. Caebargs, E. Daubie, G.H. Hammad

Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
G.A. Alves, M. Correa Martins Junior, D. De Jesus Damiao, T. Martins, M.E. Pol, M.H.G. Souza

Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
W.L. Aldá Júnior, W. Carvalho, A. Custódio, E.M. Da Costa, C. De Oliveira Martins, S. Fonseca De Souza, D. Matos Figueiredo, L. Mundim, H. Nogima, V. Oguri, W.L. Prado Da Silva, A. Santoro, L. Soares Jorge, A. Szajder

Instituto de Física Teórica \textsuperscript{a}, Universidade Estadual Paulista \textsuperscript{b}, Sao Paulo, Brazil
T.S. Anjos\textsuperscript{b,3}, C.A. Bernardes\textsuperscript{b,3}, F.A. Dias\textsuperscript{b,4}, T.R. Fernandez Perez Tomei\textsuperscript{a}, E.M. Gregores\textsuperscript{b,3}, C. Lagana\textsuperscript{a}, F. Marinho\textsuperscript{b}, P.G. Mercadante\textsuperscript{b,3}, S.F. Novaes\textsuperscript{a}, Sandra S. Padula\textsuperscript{a}

Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy, Sofia, Bulgaria
V. Genchev\textsuperscript{3}, P. Iaydjiev\textsuperscript{2}, S. Piperov, M. Rodozov, S. Stoykova, G. Sultanov, V. Tcholakov, R. Trayanov, M. Vutova
University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria
A. Dimitrov, R. Hadjiiska, V. Kozhuharov, L. Litov, B. Pavlov, P. Petkov

Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing, China
J.G. Bian, C.M. Chen, H.S. Chen, C.H. Jiang, D. Liang, S. Liang, X. Meng, J. Tao, J. Wang, X. Wang, Z. Wang, H. Xiao, M. Xu, Z. Zang, Z. Zhang

State Key Lab. of Nucl. Phys. and Tech., Peking University, Beijing, China
C. Asawatangtrakuldee, Y. Ban, Y. Guo, W. Li, S. Liu, Y. Mao, S.J. Qian, H. Teng, D. Wang, L. Zhang, W. Zou

Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia
C. Avila, J.P. Gomez, B. Gomez Moreno, A.F. Osorio Oliveros, J.C. Sanabria

Technical University of Split, Split, Croatia
N. Godinovic, D. Lelas, R. Plestina, D. Polic, I. Puljak

University of Split, Split, Croatia
Z. Antonovic, M. Kovac

Institute Rudjer Boskovic, Zagreb, Croatia
V. Brigljevic, S. Duric, K. Kadija, J. Luetic, S. Morovic

University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus
A. Attikis, M. Galanti, G. Mavromanolakis, J. Mousa, C. Nicolaou, F. Ptochos, P.A. Razis

Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
M. Finger, M. Finger Jr.

Academy of Scientific Research and Technology of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Egyptian Network of High Energy Physics, Cairo, Egypt
Y. Assran, S. Elgamal, A. Elithi Kamel, M.A. Mahmoud, A. Radi

National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia
M. Kadastik, M. Münzel, M. Raidal, L. Rebane, A. Tiko

Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland
P. Eerola, G. Fedi, M. Voutilainen

Helsinki Institute of Physics, Helsinki, Finland
J. Härkönen, A. Heikkinen, V. Karimäki, R. Kinnunen, M.J. Kortelainen, T. Lampén, K. Lassila-Perini, S. Lehti, T. Lindén, P. Luukka, T. Mäenpää, T. Peltola, E. Tuominen, J. Tuominiemi, E. Tuovinen, D. Ungaro, L. Wendland

Lappeenranta University of Technology, Lappeenranta, Finland
K. Banzuzi, A. Karjalainen, A. Korpela, T. Tuuva

DSM/IRFU, CEA/Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France
M. Besancon, S. Choudhury, M. Dejardin, D. Denegri, B. Fabbro, J.L. Faure, F. Ferri, S. Ganjour, A. Givernaud, P. Gras, G. Hamel de Monchenault, P. Jarry, E. Locci, J. Malcles, L. Millischer, A. Nayak, J. Rander, A. Rosowsky, I. Shreyber, M. Titov

Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, Ecole Polytechnique, IN2P3-CNRS, Palaiseau, France
S. Baffioni, F. Beaudette, L. Benhabib, L. Blanchini, M. Blujić, C. Broutin, P. Busson, C. Charlot, N. Daci, T. Dahms, L. Dobrzyński, R. Granier de Cassagnac, M. Haguenaier, P. Miné, C. Mironov, I.N. Naranjo, M. Nguyen, C. Ochando, P. Paganini, D. Sabes, R. Salerno, Y. Sirois, C. Veelken, A. Zabi
Institut für Experimentelle Kernphysik, Karlsruhe, Germany
C. Barth, J. Berger, C. Böser, T. Chwalek, W. De Boer, A. Descroix, A. Dierlamm, M. Feindt, M. Guthoff, C. Hackstein, F. Hartmann, T. Hauth, M. Heinrich, H. Held, K.H. Hoffmann, S. Honc, I. Katkov, J.R. Komaragiri, P. Lobelle Pardo, D. Martschei, S. Mueller, Th. Müller, M. Niegel, A. Nürnberg, O. Oberst, A. Oehler, J. Ott, G. Quast, K. Rabbertz, F. Ratnikov, N. Ratnikova, S. Röcker, A. Scheurer, F.-P. Schilling, G. Schott, H.J. Simonis, F.M. Stober, D. Troendle, R. Ulrich, J. Wagner-Kuhr, S. Wayand, T. Weiler, M. Zeise

Institute of Nuclear Physics "Demokritos", Aghia Paraskevi, Greece
G. Daskalakis, T. Geralis, S. Kesisoglou, A. Kyriakis, D. Loukas, I. Manolakos, A. Markou, C. Markou, C. Mavrommatis, E. Ntomari

University of Athens, Athens, Greece
L. Gouskos, T.J. Mertzimekis, A. Panagiotou, N. Saoulidou

University of Ioánnina, Ioánnina, Greece
I. Evangelou, C. Foudas, P. Kokkas, N. Manthos, I. Papadopoulos, V. Patras

KFKI Research Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, Budapest, Hungary
G. Bencze, C. Hajdu, P. Hidas, D. Horváth, F. Sikler, V. Veszpremi, G. Vesztergombi

Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary
N. Beni, S. Czellar, J. Molnar, J. Palinkas, Z. Szillasi

University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary
J. Karancsi, P. Raics, Z.L. Trocsanyi, B. Ujvari

Panjab University, Chandigarh, India
S.B. Beri, V. Bhatnagar, N. Dhingra, R. Gupta, M. Kaur, M.Z. Mehta, N. Nishu, L.K. Saini, A. Sharma, J.B. Singh

University of Delhi, Delhi, India
Ashok Kumar, Arun Kumar, S. Ahuja, A. Bhardwaj, B.C. Choudhary, S. Malhotra, M. Naimuddin, K. Ranjan, V. Sharma, R.K. Shivpuri

Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, India
S. Banerjee, S. Bhattacharya, S. Dutta, B. Gomber, Sa. Jain, Sh. Jain, R. Khurana, S. Sarkar, M. Sharan

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, India
A. Abdulsalam, R.K. Choudhary, D. Dutta, S. Kailas, V. Kumar, P. Mehta, A.K. Mohanty, L.M. Pant, P. Shukla

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research - EHEP, Mumbai, India
T. Aziz, S. Ganguly, M. Guhait, M. Maity, G. Majumder, K. Mazumdar, G.B. Mohanty, B. Parida, K. Sudhakar, N. Wickramage

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research - HECR, Mumbai, India
S. Banerjee, S. Dugad

Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences (IPM), Tehran, Iran
H. Arfaei, H. Bakhshiansohi, S.M. Etesami, A. Fahim, M. Hashemi, H. Hesari, A. Jafari, M. Khakzad, M. Mohammadi Najafabadi, S. Paktinat Mehdiabadi, B. Safarzadeh, M. Zeinali

INFN Sezione di Bari, Università di Bari, Politecnico di Bari, Bari, Italy
M. Abbrescia, L. Barbone, C. Calabria, S.S. Chhibra, A. Colaleo, D. Creanza,
N. De Filippis,a,c,5 M. De Palma,a,b L. Fiore,a G. Iaselli,a,c Lusito,a,b G. Maggi,a,c M. Maggi,a B. Marangelli,b,5 S. My,a,c S. Nuzzo,a,b N. Pacifico,a,b A. Pompili,a,b G. Pugliese,a,c G. Selvaggi,a,b L. Silvestris,a G. Singh,b G. Zito,a

INFN Sezione di Bologna a, Università di Bologna b, Bologna, Italy
G. Abbiendi,a A.C. Benvenuti,a D. Bonacorsi,a,b S. Braibant-Giacomelli,a,b L. Brigliadori,a,b P. Capiluppi,a,b A. Castro,a,b F.R. Cavallo,a M. Cuffiani,a,b G.M. Dallavalle,a F. Fabbri,a A. Fanfani,a,b D. Fasanella,a,b,5 P. Giacomelli,a C. Grandi,a L. Guiducci,b S. Marcellini,a G. Masetti,a M. Meregalli,a,b,5 A. Montanari,a F.L. Navarria,a,b F. Odorici,a A. Perrotta,a F. Primavera,a,b A.M. Rossii,a,b T. Rovelli,a,b G.P. Siroli,a,b R. Travaglini,a,b

INFN Sezione di Catania a, Università di Catania b, Catania, Italy
S. Albergo,a,b G. Cappello,a,b M. Chiorboli,a,b S. Costa,a,b R. Potenza,a,b A. Tricomi,a,b C. Tuve,a,b

INFN Sezione di Firenze a, Università di Firenze b, Firenze, Italy
G. Barbagli,a V. Ciulli,a,b C. Cividini,a R. D’Alessandro,a,b E. Focardi,a,b S. Frosali,a,b E. Gallo,a S. Gonzi,a,b M. Meschini,a S. Paolotti,a G. Sguazzoni,a A. Tropiano,a

INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy
L. Benucci S. Bianco S. Colafranceschi,a,b F. Fabbri D. Piccolo

INFN Sezione di Genova a, Università di Genova b, Genova, Italy
P. Fabbricatore,a R. Musenich,a T. Sosi,a,b

INFN Sezione di Milano-Bicocca a, Università di Milano-Bicocca b, Milano, Italy
A. Benaglia,a,b F. De Guio,a,b L. Di Matteo,a,b,5 S. Fiorendi,a,b G. Gennai,a,b S. Ghezzi,a,b S. Malvezzi,a R.A. Manzoni,a,b A. Martelli,a,b A. Massironi,a,b,5 D. Menasce,a L. Moroni,a M. Paganoni,a,b D. Pedrini,a S. Ragazzi,a,b N. Redaelli,a S. Sala,a T. Tabarelli de Fatis,a,b

INFN Sezione di Napoli a, Università di Napoli “Federico II” b, Napoli, Italy
S. Buontempo,o C.A. Carrillo Montoya,a N. Cavall,o,a,b,5 A. De Costoa,b,5 O. Doganung,a F. Fabozza,a,b,26 A.O.M. Iorio,a L. Lista,a S. Meola,a,b,27 M. Merola,a,b P. Paolucci,a,b

INFN Sezione di Padova a, Università di Padova b, Università di Trento (Trento) c, Padova, Italy
P. Azzi,a N. Bacchetta,a,b D. Bisello,a,b A. Branca,a,b,5 R. Carlin,a,b P. Checcia,a T. Dorigo,a U. Dosselli,a F. Gasparini,a,b U. Gasparini,a,b A. Gozzelino,a K. Kanishchev,a,c S. Lacapra,a I. Lazzizzera,a,c M. Margoni,a,b,5 A.T. Meneguzzo,a,b J. Pazzini,a,b N. Pozzobon,a,b P. Ronchese,a,b F. Simonetto,a,b E. Torassa,a M. Tosi,a,b,5 S. Vanini,a,b P. Zotto,a,b G. Zumerle,a,b

INFN Sezione di Pavia a, Università di Pavia b, Pavia, Italy
M. Gabusi,a,b S.P. Ratti,a,b C. Riccardia,b P. Torre,a,b P. Vitulo,a,b

INFN Sezione di Perugia a, Università di Perugia b, Perugia, Italy
M. Biasini,a,b G.M. Bilei,a L. Fanò,a,b P. Laricci,a,b A. Lucaroni,a,b,5 G. Mantovani,a,b M. Menichelli,a A. Nappi,a,b F. Romeo,a,b A. Saha,a A. Santocchia,a,b A. Spiezia,a,b S. Taroni,a,b

INFN Sezione di Pisa a, Università di Pisa b, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa c, Pisa, Italy
P. Azzurri,a,c G. Bagliesi,a J. Bernardini,a T. Boccali,a G. Broccolo,a,c R. Castaldi,a R.T. D’Agnolo,a,c,5 R. Dell’Orso,a F. Fiori,a,b,5 L. Foà,a,c A. Giassi,a A. Kraan,a F. Ligabue,a,c T. Lomtadze,a L. Martini,a,b,28 A. Messineo,a,b F. Palla,a A. Rizzi,a,b A.T. Serban,a,b,29 P. Spagnolo,a P. Squillacioti,a R. Tchentia a G. Tonelli,a,b A. Venturi,a P.G. Verdini,a

INFN Sezione di Roma a, Università di Roma b, Roma, Italy
L. Barone,a,b F. Cavallari,a D. Del Re,a,b M. Diemoz,a C. Fanelli,a,b M. Grassi,a,b,5 E. Longo,a,b
A The CMS Collaboration

P. Meridiani\textsuperscript{a,5}, F. Micheli\textsuperscript{a,b}, S. Nourbakhsh\textsuperscript{a,b}, G. Organtini\textsuperscript{a,b}, R. Paramatti\textsuperscript{a}, S. Rahatlou\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Sigamani\textsuperscript{a}, L. Soffi\textsuperscript{a,b}

\textit{INFN Sezione di Torino} \textsuperscript{a}, \textit{Università di Torino} \textsuperscript{b}, \textit{Università del Piemonte Orientale (Novara)} \textsuperscript{c}, \textit{Torino, Italy}

N. Amapane\textsuperscript{a,b}, R. Arcidiacono\textsuperscript{a,c}, S. Argiro\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Arneodo\textsuperscript{a,c}, C. Biino\textsuperscript{a}, N. Cartiglia\textsuperscript{a}, M. Costa\textsuperscript{a,b}, N. Demaria\textsuperscript{a}, C. Mariotti\textsuperscript{a,5}, S. Maselli\textsuperscript{a}, E. Migliore\textsuperscript{a,b}, V. Monaco\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Musich\textsuperscript{a,5}, M.M. Obertino\textsuperscript{a,c}, N. Pastrone\textsuperscript{a}, M. Pelliccioni\textsuperscript{a}, A. Potenza\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Romero\textsuperscript{a,b}, R. Sacchi\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Solano\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Staiano\textsuperscript{a}, P.P. Trapani\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Vilela Pereira\textsuperscript{a}

\textit{INFN Sezione di Trieste} \textsuperscript{a}, \textit{Università di Trieste} \textsuperscript{b}, \textit{Trieste, Italy}

S. Belforte\textsuperscript{a}, V. Candelise\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Casarsa\textsuperscript{a}, F. Cossutti\textsuperscript{a}, G. Della Ricca\textsuperscript{a,b}, B. Gobbo\textsuperscript{a}, M. Marone\textsuperscript{a,b,5}, D. Montanino\textsuperscript{a,b,5}, A. Penzo\textsuperscript{a}, A. Schizzi\textsuperscript{a,b}

Kangwon National University, Chunchon, Korea

S.G. Heo, T.Y. Kim, S.K. Nam

Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea

S. Chang, D.H. Kim, G.N. Kim, D.J. Hong, H. Park, S.R. Ro, D.C. Son, T. Son

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

J.Y. Kim, Zero J. Kim, S. Song

Korea University, Seoul, Korea

S. Choi, D. Gyun, B. Hong, M. Jo, H. Kim, T.J. Kim, K.S. Lee, D.H. Moon, S.K. Park

University of Seoul, Seoul, Korea

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

Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, Korea

Y. Cho, Y. Choi, Y.K. Choi, J. Goh, M.S. Kim, E. Kwon, B. Lee, J. Lee, S. Lee, H. Seo, I. Yu

Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania

M.J. Bilinskas, I. Grigelionis, M. Janulis, A. Juodagalvis

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

H. Castilla-Valdez, E. De La Cruz-Burelo, I. Heredia-de La Cruz, R. Lopez-Fernandez, R. Magana Villalba, J. Martinez-Ortega, A. Sanchez-Hernandez, L.M. Villasenor-Cendejas

Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico

S. Carrillo Moreno, F. Vazquez Valencia

Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, Puebla, Mexico

H.A. Salazar Ibarquen

Universidad Autonoma de San Luis Potosi, San Luis Potosi, Mexico

E. Casimiro Linares, A. Morelos Pineda, M.A. Reyes-Santos

University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

D. Krofcheck

University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

A.J. Bell, P.H. Butler, R. Doesburg, S. Reucroft, H. Silverwood
National Centre for Physics, Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan
M. Ahmad, M.H. Ansari, M.I. Asghar, H.R. Hoorani, S. Khalid, W.A. Khan, T. Khurshid, S. Qazi, M.A. Shah, M. Shoaib

National Centre for Nuclear Research, Swierk, Poland
H. Bialkowska, B. Boimska, T. Frueboes, R. Gokieli, M. Górkis, M. Kazana, K. Nawrocki, K. Romanowska-Rybinska, M. Szleper, G. Wrochna, P. Zalewski

Institute of Experimental Physics, Faculty of Physics, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland
G. Brona, K. Bunkowski, M. Cwiok, W. Dominik, K. Doroba, A. Kalinowski, M. Konecki, J. Krolikowski

Laboratório de Instrumentação e Física Experimental de Partículas, Lisboa, Portugal
N. Almeida, P. Bargassa, A. David, P. Faccioli, P.G. Ferreira Parracho, M. Gallinaro, J. Seixas, J. Varela, P. Vischia

Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia
I. Belotelov, I. Golutvin, I. Gorbunov, A. Kamenev, V. Karjavin, V. Konoplyanikov, G. Kozlov, A. Lanev, A. Malakhov, P. Moisenz, V. Palichik, V. Perelygin, M. Savina, S. Shmatov, V. Smirnov, A. Volodko, A. Zarubin

Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina (St. Petersburg), Russia
S. Evtushukhin, V. Golovtsov, Y. Ivanov, V. Kim, P. Levchenko, V. Murzin, V. Oreshkin, I. Smirnov, V. Sulimov, L. Uvarov, S. Vavilov, A. Vorobyev, An. Vorobyev

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

Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia
V. Epshteyn, M. Erofeeva, V. Gavrilo, M. Kossov, N. Lyakhovskaya, V. Popov, G. Safronov, S. Semenov, V. Stolin, E. Vlasov, A. Zhokin

Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
A. Belyaev, E. Boos, V. Bunichev, M. Dubinin¹, L. Dudko, A. Ershov, A. Gribushin, V. Klyukhin, O. Kodolova, I. Lokhtin, A. Markina, S. Obraztsov, M. Perfilov, S. Petrushanko, A. Popov, L. Sarycheva¹, V. Savrin

P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia
V. Andreev, M. Azarkin, I. Dremin, M. Kirakosyan, A. Leonidov, G. Mesyats, S.V. Rusakov, A. Vinogradov

State Research Center of Russian Federation, Institute for High Energy Physics, Protvino, Russia
I. Azhgirey, I. Bayshev, S. Bitioukov, V. Grishin⁵, V. Kachanov, D. Konstantinov, V. Krychkine, V. Petrov, R. Ryutin, A. Sobol, L. Tourchanovitch, S. Troshin, N. Tyurin, A. Uzunian, A. Volkov

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia
P. Adzic⁶, M. Djordjevic, M. Ekmedzic, D. Krpic⁶, J. Milosevic

Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT), Madrid, Spain
M. Aguilar-Benitez, J. Alcaraz Maestre, P. Arce, C. Battilana, E. Calvo, M. Carrada, M. Chamizo Llatas, N. Colino, B. De La Cruz, A. Delgado Peris, D. Domínguez Vázquez, C. Fernandez
Bedoya, J.P. Fernández Ramos, A. Ferrando, J. Flix, M.C. Fouz, P. Garcia-Abia, O. Gonzalez Lopez, S. Goy Lopez, J.M. Hernandez, M.I. Josa, G. Merino, J. Puerta Pelayo, A. Quintario Olmeda, I. Redondo, L. Romero, J. Santaolalla, M.S. Soares, C. Willmott

**Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain**
C. Albajar, G. Codispoti, J.F. de Trocóniz

**Universidad de Oviedo, Oviedo, Spain**
H. Brun, J. Cuevas, J. Fernandez Menendez, S. Folgueras, I. Gonzalez Caballero, L. Lloret Iglesias, J. Piedra Gomez

**Instituto de Física de Cantabria (IFCA), CSIC-Universidad de Cantabria, Santander, Spain**
J.A. Brochero Cifuentes, I.J. Cabrillo, A. Calderon, S.H. Chuang, J. Duarte Campderros, M. Felcini31, M. Fernandez, G. Gomez, J. Gonzalez Sanchez, A. Graziano, C. Jorda, A. Lopez Virto, J. Marco, R. Marco, C. Martinez Rivero, F. Matorras, F.J. Munoz Sanchez, T. Rodrigo, A.Y. Rodriguez-Marrero, A. Ruiz-Jimeno, L. Scodellaro, I. Vila, R. Vilar Cortabitarte

**CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland**
D. Abbaneo, E. Auffray, G. Auzinger, M. Bachtis, P. Baillon, A.H. Ball, D. Barney, J.F. Benitez, C. Bernet6, G. Bianchi, P. Bloch, A. Bocci, A. Bonato, C. Botta, H. Breuker, T. Camporesi, G. Cerminara, T. Christiansen, J.A. Coaraa Perez, D. D’Enterria, A. Dabrowski, A. De Roeck, S. Di Guida, M. Dobson, N. Dupont-Sagorin, A. Elliott-Peisert, B. Frisch, W. Funk, G. Georgiou, M. Giffels, D. Gigi, K. Gill, D. Giordano, M. Girone, M. Giunta, F. Glege, R. Gomez-Reino Garrido, P. Govoni, S. Cowdy, R. Guida, M. Hansen, P. Harris, C. Hartl, J. Harvey, B. Hegner, A. Hinzmann, V. Innocente, P. Janot, K. Kaadze, E. Karavakis, K. Kousouris, P. Lecoq, Y.-J. Lee, P. Lenzi, C. Lourenço, N. Magini, T. Mâki, M. Malberti, L. Malgeri, M. Mannelli, L. Masetti, F. Meijers, S. Mersi, E. Meschi, R. Moser, M.U. Mozer, M. Mulders, P. Musella, E. Nesvold, T. Orimoto, L. Orsini, E. Palencia Cortezon, E. Perez, L. Perrozzi, A. Pfeiffer, M. Pierini, M. Pimiä, D. Piparo, G. Polese, L. Quertenmont, A. Racz, W. Reeece, J. Rodrigues Antunes, G. Roland32, C. Rovelli33, M. Rovere, H. Sakulin, F. Santanastasio, C. Schäfer, C. Schwick, I. Segoni, S. Sekmen, A. Sharma, P. Siegrist, P. Silva, M. Simon, P. Sphicas34, D. Spiga, A. Tsirow, G.I. Veres35, J.R. Vlimant, H.K. Wöhri, S.D. Worm35, W.D. Zeuner

**Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland**
W. Bertl, K. Deiters, W. Erdmann, K. Gabathuler, R. Horisberger, Q. Ingram, H.C. Kaestli, S. König, D. Kotlinski, U. Langenegger, F. Meier, D. Renker, T. Rohe, J. Sibille36

**Institute for Particle Physics, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland**
L. Bäni, P. Bortignon, M.A. Buchmann, B. Casal, N. Chanon, A. Deisher, G. Dissertori, M. Dittmar, M. Donegà, M. Düsing, J. Egiuster, K. Freudenreich, C. Grab, D. Hits, P. Lecomte, W. Lustermann, A.C. Marini, P. Martinez Ruiz del Arbol, N. Mohr, F. Moortgat, C. Nägeli37, P. Nef, F. Nessi-Tedaldi, F. Pandolfi, L. Pape, F. Pauss, M. Peruzzi, F.J. Ronga, M. Rossini, L. Sala, A.K. Sanchez, A. Starodumov38, B. Stieger, M. Takahashi, L. Tauscher4, A. Thea, K. Theofilatos, D. Treille, C. Urscheler, R. Walnly, H.A. Weber, L. Wehrli

**Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland**
C. Amsler, V. Chiochia, S. De Visscher, C. Favaro, M. Ivova Rikova, B. Millan Mejias, P. Otiougova, P. Robmann, H. Snoek, S. Tupputi, M. Verzetti

**National Central University, Chung-Li, Taiwan**
Y.H. Chang, K.H. Chen, C.M. Kuo, S.W. Li, W. Lin, Z.K. Liu, Y.J. Lu, D. Mekterovic, A.P. Singh, R. Volpe, S.S. Yu
National Taiwan University (NTU), Taipei, Taiwan
P. Bartalini, P. Chang, Y.H. Chang, Y.W. Chang, Y. Chao, K.F. Chen, C. Dietz, U. Grundler, W.-S. Hou, Y. Hsiung, K.Y. Kao, Y.J. Lei, R.-S. Lu, D. Majumder, E. Petrakou, X. Shi, J.G. Shiu, Y.M. Tzeng, X. Wang

Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
B. Asavapibhop, N. Sriramanobhas

Cukurova University, Adana, Turkey
A. Adiguzel, M.N. Bakirci, S. Cerci, C. Dozen, I. Dumanoglu, E. Eskut, S. Girgis, G. Gokbulut, E. Gurpinar, I. Hos, E.E. Kangal, T. Karaman, G. Karapinar, A. Kayis Topaksu, G. Onengut, K. Ozdemir, S. Ozturk, A. Polatoz, K. Sogut, D. Sunar Cerci, B. Tali, H. Topakli, L.N. Vergili, M. Vergili

Middle East Technical University, Physics Department, Ankara, Turkey
I.V. Akin, T. Aliev, B. Bilin, S. Bilmis, M. Deniz, H. Gamsizkan, A.M. Guler, K. Ocalan, A. Ozpineci, M. Serin, R. Sever, U.E. Surat, M. Yalvac, E. Yildirim, M. Zeyrek

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey
E. Gulmez, B. Isildak, M. Kaya, O. Kaya, S. Ozkorucuklu, N. Sonmez

Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey
K. Cankocak

National Scientific Center, Kharkov Institute of Physics and Technology, Kharkov, Ukraine
L. Levchuk

University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom
F. Bostock, J.J. Brooke, E. Clement, D. Cussans, H. Flacher, R. Frazier, J. Goldstein, M. Grimes, G.P. Heath, H.F. Heath, L. Kreczko, S. Metson, D.M. Newbold, K. Nirunpong, A. Poll, S. Senkin, V.J. Smith, T. Williams

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
L. Basso, K.W. Bell, A. Belyaev, C. Brew, R.M. Brown, D.J.A. Cockerill, J.A. Coughlan, K. Harder, S. Harper, J. Jackson, B.W. Kennedy, E. Olaiya, D. Petyt, B.C. Radburn-Smith, C.H. Shepherd-Themistocleous, I.R. Tomalin, W.J. Womersley

Imperial College, London, United Kingdom
R. Bainbridge, G. Ball, R. Beuselinck, O. Buchmuller, D. Colling, N. Cripps, M. Cutajar, P. Dauncey, G. Davies, M. Della Negra, W. Ferguson, J. Fulcher, D. Fuyan, A. Gilbert, A. Guneratne Bryer, G. Hall, Z. Hatherell, J. Hays, G. Iles, M. Jarvis, G. Karapostoli, L. Lyons, A.-M. Magnan, J. Marrouche, B. Mathias, R. Nandi, J. Nash, A. Nikitenko, A. Papageorgiou, J. Pela, M. Pesaresi, K. Petridis, M. Pioppi, D.M. Raymond, S. Rogerson, A. Rose, M.J. Ryan, C. Seez, P. Sharp, A. Sparrow, M. Stoye, A. Tapper, M. Vazquez Acosta, T. Virdee, S. Wakefield, N. Wardle, T. Whyntie

Brunel University, Uxbridge, United Kingdom
M. Chadwick, J.E. Cole, P.R. Hobsom, A. Khan, P. Kyberd, D. Leggat, D. Leslie, W. Martin, I.D. Reid, P. Symonds, L. Teodorescu, M. Turner

Baylor University, Waco, USA
K. Hatakeyama, H. Liu, T. Scarborough

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA
O. Charaf, C. Henderson, P. Rumerio
Boston University, Boston, USA
A. Avetisyan, T. Bose, C. Fantasia, A. Heister, J. St. John, P. Lawson, D. Lazic, J. Rohlf, D. Sperka, L. Sulak

Brown University, Providence, USA
J. Alimena, S. Bhattacharya, D. Cutts, A. Ferapontov, U. Heintz, S. Jabeen, G. Kukartsev, E. Laird, G. Landsberg, M. Luk, M. Narain, D. Nguyen, M. Segala, T. Sinthuprasith, T. Speer, K.V. Tsang

University of California, Davis, Davis, USA
R. Breedon, G. Breto, M. Calderon De La Barca Sanchez, S. Chauhan, M. Chertok, J. Conway, R. Conroy, P.T. Cox, J. Dolen, R. Erbacher, M. Gardner, R. Houtz, W. Ko, A. Kopecky, R. Lander, T. Miceli, D. Pellett, F. Ricci-Tam, B. Rutherford, M. Searle, J. Smith, M. Squires, M. Tripathi, R. Vasquez Sierra

University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, USA
V. Andreev, D. Cline, R. Cousins, J. Duris, S. Erhan, P. Everaerts, C. Farrell, J. Hauser, M. Ignatenko, C. Jarvis, C. Plager, G. Rakness, P. Schlein, P. Traczyk, V. Valuev, M. Weber

University of California, Riverside, Riverside, USA
J. Babb, R. Clare, M.E. Dinardo, J. Ellison, J.W. Gary, F. Giordano, G. Hanson, G.Y. Jeng, H. Liu, O.R. Long, A. Luthra, H. Nguyen, S. Paramesvaran, J. Sturdy, S. Sumowidagdo, R. Wilken, S. Wimpenny

University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, USA
W. Andrews, J.G. Branson, G.B. Cerati, S. Cittolin, D. Evans, F. Golf, A. Holzner, R. Kelley, M. Lebourgeois, J. Letts, I. Macneill, B. Mangano, S. Padhi, C. Palmer, G. Petracciani, M. Pieri, M. Sani, V. Sharma, S. Simon, E. Sudano, M. Tadel, Y. Tu, A. Vartak, S. Wasserbaech, F. Würthwein, A. Yagil, J. Yoo

University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, USA
D. Barge, R. Bellan, C. Campagnari, M. D’Alfonso, T. Danielson, K. Flowers, P. Geffert, J. Incandela, C. Justus, P. Kalavase, S.A. Koay, D. Kovats, V. Krutelyov, S. Lowette, N. Mccoll, V. Pavlunin, F. Rebassoo, J. Ribnik, J. Richman, R. Rossin, D. Stuart, W. To, C. West

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA
A. Apresyan, A. Bornheim, Y. Chen, E. Di Marco, J. Duarte, M. Gataullin, Y. Ma, A. Mott, H.B. Newman, C. Rogan, M. Spiropulu, V. Timciuc, J. Veverka, R. Wilkinson, S. Xie, Y. Yang, R.Y. Zhu

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA
B. Akgun, V. Azzolini, A. Calamba, R. Carroll, T. Ferguson, Y. Iiyama, D.W. Jang, Y.F. Liu, M. Paulini, H. Vogel, I. Vorobiev

University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, USA
J.P. Cumalat, B.R. Drell, C.J. Edelmaier, W.T. Ford, A. Gaz, B. Heyburn, E. Luiggi Lopez, J.G. Smith, K. Stenson, K.A. Ulmer, S.R. Wagner

Cornell University, Ithaca, USA
J. Alexander, A. Chatterjee, N. Eggert, L.K. Gibbons, B. Heltsley, A. Khukhunaishvili, B. Kreis, N. Mirman, G. Nicolas Kaufman, J.R. Patterson, A. Ryd, E. Salvati, W. Sun, W.D. Teo, J. Thom, J. Thompson, J. Tucker, J. Vaughan, Y. Weng, L. Winstrom, P. Wittich

Fairfield University, Fairfield, USA
D. Winn
Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, USA
S. Abdullin, M. Albrow, J. Anderson, L.A.T. Bauerdick, A. Beretvas, J. Berryhill, P.C. Bhat, I. Bloch, K. Burkett, J.N. Butler, V. Chetluru, H.W.K. Cheung, F. Chlebana, V.D. Elvira, I. Fisk, J. Freeman, Y. Gao, D. Green, O. Gutsche, J. Hanlon, R.M. Harris, J. Hirschauer, B. Hooberman, S. Jindariani, M. Johnson, U. Joshi, B. Kilminster, B. Klima, S. Kunori, S. Kwan, C. Leonidopoulos, J. Linacre, D. Lincoln, R. Lipton, J. Lykken, K. Maeshima, J.M. Marraffino, S. Maruyama, D. Mason, P. McBride, K. Mishra, S. Mrenna, Y. Musienko, C. Newman-Holmes, V. O’Dell, O. Prokofyev, E. Sexton-Kennedy, S. Sharma, W.J. Spalding, L. Spiegel, P. Tan, L. Taylor, S. Tkaczyk, N.V. Tran, L. Upthegger, E.W. Vaandering, R. Vidal, J. Whitmore, W. Wu, F. Yang, F. Yumiceva, J.C. Yun

University of Florida, Gainesville, USA
D. Acosta, P. Avery, D. Bourilkov, M. Chen, T. Cheng, S. Das, M. De Gruttola, G.P. Di Giovanni, D. Dobur, A. Drozdetskiy, R.D. Field, M. Fisher, Y. Fu, I.K. Furic, J. Gartner, J. Hugon, B. Kim, J. Konigsberg, A. Korytov, A. Kropivnitskaya, T. Kypreos, J.F. Low, K. Matchev, P. Milenovic, G. Mitselmakher, L. Muniz, M. Park, R. Remington, A. Rinkevicius, P. Sellers, N. Skhirtladze, M. Snowball, J. Yelton, M. Zakaria

Florida International University, Miami, USA
V. Gaultney, S. Hewamanage, L.M. Lebolo, S. Linn, P. Markowitz, G. Martinez, J.L. Rodriguez

Florida State University, Tallahassee, USA
T. Adams, A. Askew, J. Bochenek, J. Chen, B. Diamond, S.V. Gleyzer, J. Haas, S. Hagopian, V. Hagopian, M. Jenkins, K.F. Johnson, H. Prosper, V. Veeraraghavan, M. Weinberg

Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, USA
M.M. Baarmand, B. Dorney, M. Hohlmann, H. Kalakhety, I. Vodopiyanov

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Chicago, USA
M.R. Adams, I.M. Anghel, L. Apanasevich, Y. Bai, V.E. Bazterra, R.R. Betts, I. Bucinskiate, J. Callner, R. Cavanaugh, O. Evdokimov, L. Gauthier, C.E. Gerber, D.J. Hofman, S. Khalatyan, F. Lacroix, M. Malek, C. O’Brien, C. Silkowski, D. Strom, P. Turner, N. Varelas

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA
U. Akgun, E.A. Albayrak, B. Bilki, W. Clarida, F. Duru, S. Griffiths, J.-P. Merlo, H. Mermekaya, A. Mestvirishvili, A. Moeller, J. Nachtman, C.R. Newsom, E. Norbeck, Y. Onel, F. Ozok, S. Sen, E. Tiras, J. Wetzel, T. Yetkin, K. Yi

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA
B.A. Barnett, B. Blumenfeld, S. Bolognesi, D. Fehling, G. Giurgiu, A.V. Gritsan, Z.J. Guo, G. Hu, P. Maksimovic, S. Rappoccio, M. Swartz, A. Whitbeck

The University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA
P. Baringer, A. Bean, G. Benelli, R.P. Kenny Iii, M. Murray, D. Noonan, S. Sanders, R. Stringer, G. Tinti, J.S. Wood, V. Zhukova

Kansas State University, Manhattan, USA
A.F. Barfuss, T. Bolton, I. Chakaberia, A. Ivanov, S. Khalil, M. Makouski, Y. Maravin, S. Shrestha, I. Svintradze

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, USA
J. Gronberg, D. Lange, D. Wright

University of Maryland, College Park, USA
A. Baden, M. Boutemeur, B. Calvert, S.C. Eno, J.A. Gomez, N.J. Hadley, R.G. Kellogg, M. Kirn,
T. Kolberg, Y. Lu, M. Marionneau, A.C. Mignerey, K. Pedro, A. Peterman, A. Skuja, J. Temple, M.B. Tonjes, S.C. Tonwar, E. Twedt

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA
A. Apyan, G. Bauer, J. Bendavid, W. Busza, E. Butz, I.A. Cali, M. Chan, V. Dutta, G. Gomez Ceballos, M. Goncharov, K.A. Hahn, Y. Kim, M. Klute, K. Krajczar, W. Li, P.D. Luckey, T. Ma, S. Nahn, C. Paus, D. Ralph, C. Roland, G. Roland, M. Rudolph, G.S.F. Stephans, F. Stöckli, K. Sumorok, K. Sung, D. Velicanu, E.A. Wenger, R. Wolf, B. Wyslouch, M. Yang, Y. Yilmaz, A.S. Yoon, M. Zanetti

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA
S.I. Cooper, B. Dahmes, A. De Benedetti, G. Franzoni, A. Gude, S.C. Kao, K. Klapoetke, Y. Kubota, J. Mans, N. Pastika, R. Rusack, M. Sasseville, A. Singovsky, N. Tambe, J. Turkewitz

University of Mississippi, Oxford, USA
L.M. Cremaldi, R. Kroeger, L. Perera, R. Rahmat, D.A. Sanders

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, USA
E. Avdeeva, K. Bloom, S. Bose, J. Butt, D.R. Claes, A. Dominguez, M. Eads, J. Keller, I. Kravchenko, J. Lazo-Flores, H. Malbouisson, S. Malik, G.R. Snow

State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, USA
U. Baur, A. Godshalk, I. Iashvili, S. Jain, A. Kharchilava, A. Kumar, S.P. Shipkowskii, K. Smith

Northeastern University, Boston, USA
G. Alverson, E. Barberis, D. Baumgartel, M. Casco, J. Haley, D. Nash, D. Trocino, D. Wood, J. Zhang

Northwestern University, Evanston, USA
A. Anastassov, A. Kubik, N. Mucia, N. Odell, R.A. Ofierzynski, B. Pollack, A. Pozdnyakov, M. Schmitt, S. Stoynev, M. Velasco, S. Won

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, USA
L. Antonelli, D. Berry, A. Brinkerhoff, M. Hildreth, C. Jessop, D.J. Karmgard, J. Kolb, K. Lannon, W. Luo, S. Lynch, N. Marinelli, D.M. Morse, T. Pearson, M. Planer, R. Ruchti, J. Slaunwhite, N. Valls, M. Wayne, M. Wolf

The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA
B. Bylsma, L.S. Durkin, C. Hill, R. Hughes, K. Kotov, T.Y. Ling, D. Puigh, M. Rodenburg, C. Vuosalo, G. Williams, B.L. Winer

Princeton University, Princeton, USA
N. Adam, E. Berry, P. Elmer, D. Gerbaudo, V. Halyo, P. Hebda, J. Hegeman, A. Hunt, P. Jindal, D. Lopes Pegna, P. Lujan, D. Marlow, T. Medvedeva, M. Mooney, J. Olsen, P. Piroué, X. Quan, A. Raval, B. Safdi, H. Saka, D. Stickland, C. Tully, J.S. Werner, A. Zuranski

University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, USA
J.G. Acosta, E. Brownson, X.T. Huang, A. Lopez, H. Mendez, S. Oliveros, J.E. Ramirez Vargas, A. Zatserklyan

Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA
E. Alagoz, V.E. Barnes, D. Benedetti, G. Bolla, D. Bortoletto, M. De Mattia, A. Everett, Z. Hu, M. Jones, O. Koybasi, M. Kress, A.T. Laasanen, N. Leonardo, V. Maroussov, P. Merkel, D.H. Miller, N. Neumeister, I. Shipsey, D. Silvers, A. Svyatkovskiy, M. Vidal Marono, H.D. Yoo, J. Zablocki, Y. Zheng
Purdue University Calumet, Hammond, USA
S. Guragain, N. Parashar

Rice University, Houston, USA
A. Adair, C. Boulahouache, K.M. Ecklund, F.J.M. Geurts, B.P. Padley, R. Redjimi, J. Roberts, J. Zabel

University of Rochester, Rochester, USA
B. Betchart, A. Bodek, Y.S. Chung, R. Covarelli, P. de Barbaro, R. Demina, Y. Eshaq, T. Ferbel, A. Garcia-Bellido, P. Goldenzweig, J. Han, A. Harel, D.C. Miner, D. Vishnevskiy, M. Zielinski

The Rockefeller University, New York, USA
A. Bhatti, R. Ciesielski, L. Demortier, K. Goulianos, G. Lungu, S. Malik, C. Mesropian

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Piscataway, USA
S. Arora, A. Barker, J.P. Chou, C. Contreras-Campana, E. Contreras-Campana, D. Duggan, D. Ferencek, Y. Gershtein, R. Gray, E. Halkiadakis, D. Hidas, A. Lath, S. Panwalkar, M. Park, R. Patel, V. Rekovic, J. Robles, K. Rose, S. Salur, S. Schnetzer, C. Seitz, S. Somalwar, R. Stone, S. Thomas

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA
G. Cerizza, M. Hollingsworth, S. Spanier, Z.C. Yang, A. York

Texas A&M University, College Station, USA
R. Eusebi, W. Flanagan, J. Gilmore, T. Kamon, V. Khotilovich, R. Montalvo, I. Osipenkov, Y. Pakhotin, A. Perloff, J. Roe, A. Safonov, T. Sakuma, S. Sengupta, I. Suarez, A. Tatarinov, D. Toback

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, USA
N. Akchurin, J. Damgov, C. Dragoiu, P.R. Dudero, C. Jeong, K. Kovitanggoon, S.W. Lee, T. Libeiro, Y. Roh, I. Volobouev

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA
E. Appelt, A.G. Delannoy, C. Florez, S. Greene, A. Gurrola, W. Johns, C. Johnston, P. Kurt, C. Maguire, A. Melo, M. Sharma, P. Sheldon, B. Snook, S. Tuo, J. Velkovska

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA
M.W. Arenton, M. Balazs, S. Boutle, B. Cox, B. Francis, J. Goodell, R. Hirosky, A. Ledovskoy, C. Lin, C. Neu, J. Wood, R. Yohay

Wayne State University, Detroit, USA
S. Gollapinini, R. Harr, P.E. Karchin, C. Kottachchi Kankanamge Don, P. Lamichhane, A. Sakharov

University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA
M. Anderson, D.A. Belknap, L. Borrello, D. Carlsmith, M. Cepeda, S. Dasu, E. Friis, L. Gray, K.S. Grogg, M. Grothe, R. Hall-Wilton, M. Herndon, A. Hervé, P. Klabbers, J. Klukas, A. Lanaro, C. Lazaridis, J. Leonard, R. Loveless, A. Mohapatra, I. Ojalvo, F. Palmonari, G.A. Pierro, I. Ross, A. Savin, W.H. Smith, J. Swanson

†: Deceased
1: Also at Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria
2: Also at National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia
3: Also at Universidade Federal do ABC, Santo Andre, Brazil
4: Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA
52: Also at Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia
53: Also at University of Belgrade, Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia
54: Also at Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, USA
55: Also at Erzincan University, Erzincan, Turkey
56: Also at Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey
57: Also at KFKI Research Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, Budapest, Hungary
58: Also at Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea