Direct $CP$ violation in charmless three-body decays of $B^{\pm}$ mesons

LHCb collaboration†

Abstract

Measurements of $CP$ asymmetries in charmless three-body decays of $B^{\pm}$ mesons are reported using proton-proton collision data collected by the LHCb detector, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 5.9 fb$^{-1}$. The previously observed $CP$ asymmetry in $B^{\pm} \to \pi^{\pm}K^{+}K^{-}$ decays is confirmed, and $CP$ asymmetries are observed with a significance of more than five standard deviations in the $B^{\pm} \to \pi^{\pm}\pi^{\pm}\pi^{-}$ and $B^{\pm} \to K^{\pm}K^{+}K^{-}$ decays, while the $CP$ asymmetry of $B^{\pm} \to K^{\pm}\pi^{+}\pi^{-}$ decays is confirmed to be compatible with zero. The distributions of these asymmetries are also studied as a function of the three-body phase space and suggest contributions from rescattering and resonance interference processes. An indication of the presence of the decays $B^{\pm} \to \pi^{\pm}\chi_{c0}(1P)$ in both $B^{\pm} \to \pi^{\pm}\pi^{+}\pi^{-}$ and $B^{\pm} \to \pi^{\pm}K^{+}K^{-}$ decays is observed, as is $CP$ violation involving these amplitudes.

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†Authors are listed at the end of this paper.
I Introduction

The violation of charge-parity (CP) symmetry has been observed in $B^+$, $B^0$ and $B^0$ decays, and yet our understanding of the dynamics involved in these asymmetries is incomplete. Some crucial questions remain to be understood: what is the dynamical origin of the weak phase associated to the decay amplitudes? Why has CP violation not been observed so far in baryon decays? What is the primary source of the strong phase difference in the observed CP asymmetries [1]?

The last question is directly related to the longstanding debate about the role of short- and long-distance contributions to the generation of the strong-phase differences, needed for direct CP violation to occur, and three-body decays of $B$ mesons offer a way of finding the answer. A recent amplitude analysis found a large CP asymmetry related to the interference between the S- and P-wave contributions in $B^\pm \to \pi^\pm\pi^+\pi^-$ decays [2][3]. In a similar analysis, large CP violation involving $\pi\pi \to KK$ rescattering was observed in $B^\pm \to \pi^\pm K^+K^-$ decays [4]. The patterns of localized CP asymmetries in the four charmless decay modes $B^\pm \to \pi^\pm\pi^+\pi^-$, $B^\pm \to K^\pm K^+K^-$, $B^\pm \to \pi^\pm K^+K^-$ and $B^\pm \to K^\pm\pi^+\pi^-$, reported in Refs. [5][6], can be interpreted as originating from long-distance hadronic interactions [1].

Heavy meson three-body decays can be understood in terms of a superposition of intermediate states involving resonances. From this perspective, the phase-space-integrated CP asymmetries ($A_{CP}$) observed in charmless three-body decays of $B^\pm$ decays are the sum of the asymmetries of each intermediate state. In the $B^\pm \to \pi^\pm K^+K^-$ decay [6], the observed CP asymmetry would result predominantly from the $\pi\pi \to KK$ rescattering amplitude, weighted by its fit fraction [4]. The same can be seen from the recent amplitude analysis of the $B^\pm \to \pi^\pm\pi^+\pi^-$ decay [2][3]. The sum of the CP asymmetries for the $B^\pm \to \sigma\pi^\pm$ and $B^\pm \to f_2(1270)\pi^\pm$ decays weighted by their respective fractions is almost equal to the inclusive CP asymmetry observed for the $B^\pm \to \pi^\pm\pi^+\pi^-$ decay [6].

Another approach considers the global properties of the three-body amplitudes. The authors of Refs. [7][9] use U-spin symmetry to relate the CP asymmetries and partial decay widths of $B^\pm \to h^\pm h'^\mp$ decays. U-spin symmetry predicts that the ratios $\Delta\Gamma(B^\pm \to K^\pm\pi^+\pi^-)/\Delta\Gamma(B^\pm \to \pi^\pm K^+K^-)$ and $\Delta\Gamma(B^\pm \to K^\pm K^+K^-)/\Delta\Gamma(B^\pm \to \pi^\pm\pi^+\pi^-)$, where $\Delta\Gamma$ is the partial decay width difference between $B^-$ and $B^+$, must be close to $-1$. These predictions, based on a general three-body decay approach, are supported by experimental measurements, within the uncertainties [6][8][10][11].

These two approaches are complementary and the role of each one must be determined from experimental results, such as the CP asymmetries and the branching fractions of charmless three-body $B^\pm$ decays, recently presented by the LHCB collaboration [12].

In this article, CP violation is studied in four charmless $B^\pm$ meson decays into three charged pseudoscalar particles: $B^\pm \to K^\pm\pi^+\pi^-$, $B^\pm \to K^\pm K^+K^-$, $B^\pm \to \pi^\pm K^+K^-$ and $B^\pm \to \pi^\pm\pi^+\pi^-$. The analysis is based on proton-proton ($pp$) collision data at a center-of-mass energy of 13 TeV, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 5.9 fb$^{-1}$, recorded with the LHCB detector between 2015 and 2018. Phase-space integrated CP asymmetries are measured, as well as CP asymmetries in specific regions of the Dalitz plots. The analysis uses the decay $B^\pm \to J/\psi(\to \mu^+\mu^-)K^\pm$ as a control channel, in order to take into account the production asymmetry of the $B^\pm$ mesons.
II LHCb detector, dataset and simulation

The LHCb detector \cite{13,14} is a single-arm forward spectrometer covering the pseudorapidity range $2 < \eta < 5$, designed for the study of particles containing $b$ or $c$ quarks. The detector includes a high-precision tracking system consisting of a silicon-strip vertex detector surrounding the $pp$ interaction region, a large-area silicon-strip detector located upstream of a dipole magnet with a bending power of about 4 Tm, and three stations of silicon-strip detectors and straw drift tubes placed downstream of the magnet. The tracking system provides a measurement of the momentum, $p$, of charged particles with a relative uncertainty that varies from 0.5% at low momentum ($\sim 2 \text{ GeV}/c$) to 1.0% at 200 GeV/$c$. The minimum distance of a track to a primary $pp$ collision vertex (PV), the impact parameter (IP), is measured with a resolution of $(15 + 29/p_T) \mu m$, where $p_T$ is the component of the momentum transverse to the beam, in GeV/$c$. Different types of charged hadrons are distinguished using information from two ring-imaging Cherenkov detectors. The corresponding efficiencies and misidentification rates are given in Ref. \cite{15}. Photons, electrons and hadrons are identified by a calorimeter system consisting of scintillating-pad and preshower detectors, an electromagnetic and a hadronic calorimeter. Muons are identified by a system composed of alternating layers of iron and multiwire proportional chambers.

The online event selection is performed by a trigger, which consists of a hardware stage, based on information from the calorimeter system, followed by a software stage, which applies a full event reconstruction. At the hardware trigger stage, events are selected if a transverse energy, typically larger than 3.5 GeV, is deposited in the calorimeters by at least one hadron from the $B^\pm \rightarrow h^\pm h'^+h'^-$ candidates. For the control channel, it is required that the hardware trigger decision must also be due to at least one muon with high $p_T$. In all final states, events are also selected if the trigger decision is independent of the signal.

The software trigger requires a two-, three- or four-track vertex with a significant displacement from any PV. At least one charged particle must have a large $p_T$ and be inconsistent with originating from any PV. A multivariate algorithm is used for the identification of displaced vertices consistent with the decay of a $b$-hadron \cite{16}.

Samples of simulated events are used to model the effects of the detector efficiency and the selection requirements, to determine the fit models and to evaluate efficiencies. In the simulation, $pp$ collisions are generated using PYTHIA 8 \cite{17} with a specific LHCb configuration \cite{18}. Decays of unstable particles are described by EVTGEN \cite{19}, in which final-state radiation is generated using PHOTOS \cite{20}. The interaction of the generated particles with the detector, and its response, are implemented using the GEANT4 toolkit \cite{21,22} as described in Ref. \cite{23}.

III Candidate selection

The selection of the four $B^\pm \rightarrow h^\pm h'^+h'^-$ samples is based on simulations and data-driven methods. The analyzed decay modes share the same topology and similar kinematics, leading to a common strategy for the selection. Requirements are made on the quality of the three-track vertices: the decay vertex must be detached from the PV, and the momentum vector of the reconstructed $B^\pm$ candidate must point back to the PV. The
final-state particles must have a significant IP with respect to the PV.

The combinatorial background is reduced by a multivariate analysis of a set of ten topological and kinematic variables, using boosted decision trees (BDT) [24] as classifiers. Samples of simulated events are used to describe the signal, whereas candidates satisfying \( m(h^\pm h'^+ h'^-) > 5.4 \text{ GeV}/c^2 \), are used to represent the combinatorial background. The BDT classifier is trained separately for each decay mode. A requirement on the BDT response for each mode is chosen to maximise the ratio \( \varepsilon_{\text{sim}}/(S+B)_{\text{data}} \), where \( \varepsilon_{\text{sim}} \) is the signal efficiency from simulation and \( (S+B)_{\text{data}} \) is obtained by counting the candidates from data with invariant mass in the interval of \( \pm 40 \text{ MeV}/c^2 \) centred on the known \( B^+ \) mass [25]. The most discriminating BDT variables are related to the \( B^\pm \) candidate distance of closest approach to the PV, pointing angle, decay vertex quality, and IP of each final-state particle.

Particle identification (PID) requirements are made on all three final-state particles, reducing the contamination from other \( B^\pm \to h^\pm h'^+ h'^- \) decays to the per cent level. This background is due mainly to \( K^- \pi^+ \) misidentification. The analysis is restricted to particles with momentum below 100 GeV/c, since above this limit the discrimination power of the PID system is limited. In order to avoid the contamination from semileptonic decays, a muon veto is placed on all decay products by applying requirements on track reconstruction and trigger decisions. Finally, a method based on Artificial Neural Network is employed to remove electrons [26].

More stringent PID requirements are applied to the \( B^\pm \to \pi^\pm \pi^+ \pi^- \) and \( B^\pm \to \pi^\pm K^+ K^- \) decays. These decays have lower branching fractions compared to the \( B^\pm \to K^\pm \pi^+ \pi^- \) and \( B^\pm \to K^\pm K^+ K^- \) decays and are therefore more severely affected by the cross-feed from other \( B^\pm \to h^\pm h'^+ h'^- \) decays.

There are significant backgrounds from two-body decays of \( B^\pm \) mesons into a \( D^0 \) or \( \bar{D}^0 \) meson and a pseudoscalar particle, followed by the two-body decay of the \( D^0 \) meson into pions and kaons. This background is removed by excluding candidates for which the two-body invariant masses \( m(\pi^+ \pi^-) \), \( m(K^\pm \pi^\mp) \) or \( m(K^+ K^-) \) are within \( \pm 30 \text{ MeV}/c^2 \) of the known \( D^0 \) mass [25].

After the final selection, approximately 0.5% of the events contain more than one signal candidate. One candidate is chosen randomly in these cases.

The decay \( B^\pm \to J/\psi K^\pm \), with subsequent decay \( J/\psi \to \mu^+ \mu^- \) is used to measure the \( B^\pm \) production asymmetry. The sample is selected with the same requirements as the \( B^\pm \to K^\pm \pi^+ \pi^- \) decay, with three exceptions: the particle identification, in which the pion PID is substituted by that of muon; the use of events for which the hardware trigger decision is due to a muon with high \( p_T \); the requirement of the \( J/\psi \) candidate mass within the interval \( 3.05 < m(\mu^+ \mu^-) < 3.15 \text{ GeV}/c^2 \).

IV Invariant mass fits

The yield and raw asymmetry of each decay channel are extracted from simultaneous unbinned extended maximum-likelihood fits to the \( B^- \) and \( B^+ \) invariant mass distributions, as shown in Fig. 1. The signal components in each of the four channels are parameterized by a sum of a Gaussian and two Crystal Ball functions [27] with a common mean and different widths and tails on either side of the peak, accounting for asymmetric effects such as quark final-state radiation. The combinatorial backgrounds is described by an exponential
function. The slopes and charge asymmetry of the combinatorial background are free parameters in the fit, the latter being compatible with zero when systematic uncertainties, production and detection asymmetries are taken into account. The background due to partially reconstructed four-body \( B \) decays, in which one particle is not reconstructed, is parameterized by an ARGUS function \cite{28} convolved with a Gaussian resolution function. A contribution from four-body \( B^0_s \) decays is also present in the \( B^\pm \to \pi^\pm K^+K^- \) sample.

The dominant peaking backgrounds in the signal regions arise from other three-body \( B \) decays with one or more misidentified final-state particles. For \( B^\pm \to K^\pm\pi^+\pi^- \) decays, the largest contribution comes from \( B^\pm \to \pi^\pm\pi^+\pi^- \) with the pion misidentified as kaon, followed by the partially reconstructed decay \( B^\pm \to \eta'(\rho\gamma)K^\pm \) in which the photon is undetected. Conversely, the only peaking contribution to the \( B^\pm \to \pi^\pm\pi^+\pi^- \) spectrum comes from \( B^\pm \to K^\pm\pi^+\pi^- \) decays. The peaking background to \( B^\pm \to K^\pm K^+K^- \) is the result of single or double misidentification of pions as kaons from \( B^\pm \to \pi^\pm K^+K^- \) and \( B^\pm \to K^\pm\pi^+\pi^- \) decays. The \( B^\pm \to \pi^\pm K^+K^- \) decay has the largest number of significant peaking background contributions due to its lower branching fraction and both \( K \to \pi \) and \( \pi \to K \) misidentification possibilities, which is why the three other channels can contribute to its spectrum.

The shapes and fractions of peaking backgrounds relative to the signal yield are obtained from simulation of the relevant decay modes and fixed in the fits, whereas the yields of the partially reconstructed background components vary freely in the fit. The resulting signal yields and raw asymmetries (\( A_{raw} \)) are listed in Table \[\text{1}\]. The data samples are larger than those presented in Ref. \[\text{6}\] due to both an increase in the integrated luminosity and the production cross-section, and the use of a more efficient selection.
Table I: Total signal yields, raw asymmetries and average efficiency ratio $R$ of charmless three-body $B^\pm$ decays for the inclusive data set.

| Decay mode       | Total yield | $A_{\text{raw}}$ | $R = <\epsilon^->/ <\epsilon^+>$ |
|------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| $B^\pm \to K^\pm\pi^+\pi^-$ | 499 200 ± 900 | +0.006 ± 0.002  | 1.0038 ± 0.0027                  |
| $B^\pm \to K^\pm K^\mp K^\mp$ | 365 000 ± 1000 | −0.052 ± 0.002  | 0.9846 ± 0.0024                  |
| $B^\pm \to \pi^\pm\pi^+\pi^-$ | 101 000 ± 500  | +0.090 ± 0.004  | 1.0354 ± 0.0037                  |
| $B^\pm \to \pi^\pm K^\mp K^\mp$ | 32 470 ± 300   | −0.132 ± 0.007  | 0.9777 ± 0.0032                  |

V Phase-space integrated $CP$ asymmetries

Neither the selection efficiencies nor the observed raw asymmetries are uniform across the Dalitz plot, and efficiencies may differ for $B^+$ and $B^-$. Therefore, the efficiency of selecting a signal decay is parameterized in the two-dimensional square Dalitz plot separately for $B^+$ and $B^-$. Such a transformation improves the resolution in the regions with high sensitivity by expanding the corners and the borders of the nominal Dalitz plot relative to the sparsely populated central region. These maps are primarily obtained using simulated decays; however, effects arising from the hardware trigger and PID efficiency are determined using data calibration samples. The efficiency shows a variation from 0.9% to 1.7% for $B^\pm \to K^\pm K^\mp K^\mp$, 0.1% to 0.6% for $B^\pm \to \pi^\pm K^\mp K^\mp$, 0.1% to 1% for $B^\pm \to K^\pm\pi^+\pi^-$ and 0.1% to 1.2% for $B^\pm \to \pi^\pm\pi^+\pi^-$. The efficiency correction applied to the integrated raw asymmetries is determined from the ratio between the $B^-$ and $B^+$ average efficiencies, as listed in Table I. These averages reflect the data distributions across the phase space by weighting the efficiency maps by the data events.

The phase-space integrated $CP$ asymmetries $A_{CP}$ are obtained by correcting the raw asymmetry for selection efficiency effects to get the efficiency-corrected raw asymmetries $A_{\text{raw}}^{\text{corr}}$, and for the production asymmetry $A_{P}$. The efficiency-corrected raw asymmetry is defined as

$$A_{\text{raw}}^{\text{corr}} = \frac{N_{B^-}^{\text{corr}} - N_{B^+}^{\text{corr}}}{N_{B^-}^{\text{corr}} + N_{B^+}^{\text{corr}}} = \frac{(N_{B^-} - R) - N_{B^+}}{(N_{B^-} - R) + N_{B^+}},$$  

(1)

where $N_{B^-}^{\text{corr}}$ and $N_{B^+}^{\text{corr}}$ are the number of $B^-$ and $B^+$ signal events obtained from the invariant mass fit, $N_{B^-}$ and $N_{B^+}$, corrected for the efficiency. They are related to the asymmetries by

$$N_{B^-} = \frac{N_{B^-}^{\text{corr}} + N_{B^+}^{\text{corr}}}{2}(1 + A_{CP})(1 + A_{P}),$$  

(2)

$$N_{B^+} = \frac{N_{B^-}^{\text{corr}} + N_{B^+}^{\text{corr}}}{2}(1 - A_{CP})(1 - A_{P}).$$  

(3)

Substituting Eqs. (2) and (3) into Eq. (1), the physical $CP$ asymmetry can be expressed in terms of $A_{\text{raw}}^{\text{corr}}$ and $A_{P}$:

$$A_{CP} = \frac{A_{\text{raw}}^{\text{corr}} - A_{P}}{1 - A_{\text{raw}}^{\text{corr}} A_{P}}.$$  

(4)

To obtain $A_{P}$, the decay $B^\pm \to J/\psi K^\pm$ is used as a control channel and its raw asymmetry is obtained from a fit to the invariant mass distribution. This decay has larger signal yield and lower background contributions compared to $B^\pm \to h^+ h^+ h^-$ decays. Its background is parameterized as the sum of a combinatorial component,
represented by a single exponential, and partially-reconstructed $B \rightarrow J/\psi K^* (892)^{\pm,0}$ decay, described by an ARGUS function. The $B^\pm \rightarrow J/\psi K^\pm$ model is parameterized with the same function used for the $B^\pm \rightarrow h^\pm h'^+ h'^-$ channels. Systematic uncertainties of the raw asymmetry are obtained by varying the signal fit model, leaving the background asymmetry to vary in the fit, and looking at variations from different trigger samples of the data. The total systematic uncertainty is taken as the sum in quadrature of the individual uncertainties. The raw asymmetry of the control channel is measured to be $A_{\text{raw}}^{B^\pm \rightarrow J/\psi K^\pm} = -0.0118 \pm 0.0008 \pm 0.0007 \pm 0.0008$, where the first uncertainty is statistical and the second systematic.

To obtain the $B^\pm$ production asymmetry, this raw asymmetry is corrected by its efficiency ratio, calculated using a sample of simulated events produced without any $B^\pm$ production asymmetry, to obtain $A_{\text{corr}}^{B^\pm \rightarrow J/\psi K^\pm}$ as before, and the world average value of the $B^\pm \rightarrow J/\psi K^\pm$ $CP$ asymmetry, $0.0018 \pm 0.0030$ [25], is subtracted

$$A_P = A_{\text{raw}}^{B^\pm \rightarrow J/\psi K^\pm} - A_{\text{CP}}(B^\pm \rightarrow J/\psi K^\pm). \tag{5}$$

The measured $B$ meson production asymmetry is $A_P = -0.0070 \pm 0.0008 \pm 0.0007 \pm 0.0030$, where the last uncertainty is due to the $CP$ asymmetry of $B^\pm \rightarrow J/\psi K^\pm$ decays [25].

Finally, the $CP$ asymmetries of the four $B^\pm \rightarrow h^\pm h'^+ h'^-$ modes are measured to be

$$A_{\text{CP}}(B^\pm \rightarrow K^\pm \pi^+ \pi^-) = +0.011 \pm 0.002,$$
$$A_{\text{CP}}(B^\pm \rightarrow K^\pm K^+ K^-) = -0.037 \pm 0.002,$$
$$A_{\text{CP}}(B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^+ \pi^-) = +0.080 \pm 0.004,$$
$$A_{\text{CP}}(B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm K^+ K^-) = -0.114 \pm 0.007,$$

where the statistical uncertainties are obtained from propagation of Eq. (4), assuming no correlation term.

## VI Systematic uncertainties and results

Several sources of systematic uncertainties are considered and can be broadly divided into three groups: potential mismodelling of the invariant mass distributions, phase-space efficiency corrections and knowledge of the $B^\pm$ production asymmetry. The systematic uncertainties due to the mass fit models are quantified by taking the difference in the $CP$ asymmetry resulting from variations of the model. The alternative fits have good quality and describe the data accurately. To estimate the uncertainty due to the choice of the signal mass function, the initial model is replaced by an alternative empirical distribution [27].

The contribution associated with the peaking background fractions reflects the uncertainties in the expected yields determined from simulation and it is evaluated by varying the fractions within their statistical uncertainties. In addition, the systematic uncertainty associated to the fact that the peaking background asymmetry is fixed to zero is estimated by setting it to the value obtained in the previous analysis [6], within the corresponding uncertainties. The uncertainty due to the choice of an exponential function to model the combinatorial component is estimated by repeating the fit using a second order polynomial function.
Table II: Individual components and total systematic uncertainties related to the mass fit model, efficiency corrections for the integrated phase space and $B^\pm$ production asymmetry. The total is the sum in quadrature of these components.

| Source of uncertainty          | $K^{\pm}\pi^+\pi^-$ | $K^{\pm}K^+K^-$ | $\pi^+\pi^+\pi^-$ | $\pi^\pm K^+K^-$ |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Signal model                   | 0.0004               | 0.0007           | 0.0000              | 0.0001            |
| Peaking background fraction    | 0.0005               | 0.0010           | 0.0002              | 0.0004            |
| Peaking background asymmetry   | 0.0022               | 0.0001           | 0.0005              | 0.0007            |
| Combinatorial model            | 0.0002               | 0.0005           | 0.0015              | 0.0025            |
| Efficiency correction          | 0.0014               | 0.0016           | 0.0018              | 0.0019            |
| Production asymmetry           | 0.0011               | 0.0011           | 0.0011              | 0.0011            |
| Total                          | 0.0029               | 0.0024           | 0.0027              | 0.0035            |

The systematic uncertainty related to the efficiency correction procedure consists of two parts: the statistical uncertainty in the detection efficiency due to the finite size of the simulated samples, and the uncertainty due to the finite size of the bins, which is evaluated by varying the binning used in the efficiency correction. The former term dominates for all decays.

The systematic uncertainty due to the $B^\pm$ production asymmetry measurement using the $B^\pm \rightarrow J/\psi K^\pm$ control channel is obtained by summing in quadrature the experimental statistical and systematic uncertainties of $A_P$.

The systematic uncertainties are summarized in Table II, where the total is the sum in quadrature of the individual contributions. The results for the integrated $CP$ asymmetries are

$$A_{CP}(B^\pm \rightarrow K^{\pm}\pi^+\pi^-) = +0.011 \pm 0.002 \pm 0.003 \pm 0.003,$$
$$A_{CP}(B^\pm \rightarrow K^{\pm}K^+K^-) = -0.037 \pm 0.002 \pm 0.002 \pm 0.003,$$
$$A_{CP}(B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^+\pi^-) = +0.080 \pm 0.004 \pm 0.003 \pm 0.003,$$
$$A_{CP}(B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm K^+K^-) = -0.114 \pm 0.007 \pm 0.003 \pm 0.003,$$

where the first uncertainty is statistical, the second is systematic and the third is due to the limited knowledge of the $CP$ asymmetry of the $B^\pm \rightarrow J/\psi K^\pm$ control channel [25].

The significance of the $CP$ asymmetries is computed by dividing the central values by the sum in quadrature of the uncertainties, yielding 8.5 standard deviations ($\sigma$) for $B^\pm \rightarrow K^{\pm}K^+K^-$ decays, 14.1$\sigma$ for $B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^+\pi^-$ decays and 13.6$\sigma$ for $B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm K^+K^-$ decays. This is the first observation of $CP$ asymmetries in these channels. For the $B^\pm \rightarrow K^{\pm}\pi^+\pi^-$ decays, the significance of the $CP$ asymmetry is 2.4$\sigma$, consistent with $CP$ conservation.

**VII  Localised $CP$ asymmetries**

The two-dimensional phase space referred to as the Dalitz plot, formed by the invariant masses squared of two of the three possible particle pairs, reflects directly the dynamics of the decay and allows the study of the different resonant and nonresonant components to inspect $CP$ asymmetry effects. The Dalitz plot distributions of signal yield, obtained with the $sPlot$ technique [29], for $B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^+\pi^-, B^\pm \rightarrow K^{\pm}\pi^+\pi^-, B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm K^+K^-$ and
$B^\pm \to K^\pm K^+ K^-$ are shown in Fig. 2. In the symmetric channels, the phase space distribution and its projections are presented with the two axes being the squares of the low-mass $m_{\text{low}}$ and high-mass $m_{\text{high}}$ combinations of the opposite-sign particle pairs, for visualization purposes.

Most of the candidates are concentrated in the low-mass regions, as expected for charmless decays dominated by resonant contributions. The gap from the vetoed potential $J/\psi$ contributions is visible in the $B^\pm \to K^\pm \pi^+ \pi^-$ channel, as well as the gaps from $D^0$ regions excluded in all modes.

In order to visualise localized asymmetries, the $A_{CP}$ in bins of the phase space is constructed. Adaptive binning is employed, such that the efficiency-corrected signal yield, also obtained with the $sPlot$ technique, is approximately equal in all bins. There is no specific rule for choosing the best binning except for requiring a minimum bin occupancy. Figure 3 reveals a rich pattern of large and localized asymmetries which result from interference between the contributions, as well as possible $\pi\pi \to KK$ rescattering, as was observed in the amplitude analyses of Refs. [2–4] and elastic scattering experiments [31,32].

Different regions of the Dalitz plots in Fig. 3 are defined to study the localized $CP$ asymmetries. The rescattering region is defined in the Dalitz plot in the two-kaon or two-pion invariant mass range $1.1–2.25 \text{ GeV}^2/c^4$ for $B^\pm \to K^\pm K^+ K^-$ due to the presence of the $\phi(1020)$ resonance and $1.0–2.25 \text{ GeV}^2/c^4$ for the other three channels, as listed in Ta-

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**Figure 2**: Dalitz plot distributions for (a) $B^\pm \to \pi^\pm \pi^+ \pi^-$, (b) $B^\pm \to K^\pm \pi^+ \pi^-$, (c) $B^\pm \to \pi^\pm K^+ K^-$ and (d) $B^\pm \to K^\pm K^+ K^-$ decays. The colour scale indicates the number of events.
where the efficiency ratios are computed separately per region. The high-mass regions of \( B^\pm \to K^{\pm}+K^0 \) decays give a nearly constant asymmetry sign as shown in Fig. 5. Figure 6 illustrates the \( m^2(K\pi) \) axis projection for the rescattering region for \( B^\pm \to K^{\pm}K^0K^- \) decays, where a nearly constant \( CP \) asymmetry is observed. The \( B^\pm \to K^{\pm}K^0K^- \) decays also reveal \( CP \) asymmetries in the \( m^2(K^+K^-)_{\text{high}} \) projections in the rescattering region, as shown in Fig. 7. Here, another change in the asymmetry sign is observed, in an opposite direction with respect to \( B^\pm \to K^{\pm}+K^- \) decays. Region 2 of the \( B^\pm \to K^{\pm}K^0K^- \) decay is the only rescattering projection that shows small asymmetry.

The high-mass regions of \( B^\pm \to \pi^{\pm}\pi^+\pi^- \) and \( B^\pm \to \pi^{\pm}K^0K^- \) as defined in Table III...
Table IV: Definitions of phase-space regions in units of GeV$^2$/c$^4$. In the $B^\pm \rightarrow K^\pm K^+K^-$ channel, the $\phi(1020)$ vector meson is excluded by requiring $m^2(K^+K^-)_{\text{low}} > 1.1$ GeV$^2$/c$^4$.

| Region   | Condition                                                                 | $B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$ |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Region 1 | $1 < m^2(\pi^+\pi^-)_{\text{low}} < 2.25$ and $3.5 < m^2(\pi^+\pi^-)_{\text{high}} < 16$ |
| Region 2 | $1 < m^2(\pi^+\pi^-)_{\text{low}} < 2.25$ and $16 < m^2(\pi^+\pi^-)_{\text{high}} < 23$ |
| Region 3 | $4 < m^2(\pi^+\pi^-)_{\text{low}} < 15$ and $4 < m^2(\pi^+\pi^-)_{\text{high}} < 16$ |

| Region   | Condition                                                                 | $B^\pm \rightarrow K^\pm\pi^+\pi^-$ |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Region 1 | $1 < m^2(\pi^+\pi^-) < 2.25$ and $3.5 < m^2(K^+\pi^-) < 19.5$ |
| Region 2 | $1 < m^2(\pi^+\pi^-) < 2.25$ and $19.5 < m^2(K^+\pi^-) < 25.5$ |

| Region   | Condition                                                                 | $B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^+K^+K^-$ |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Region 1 | $1 < m^2(K^+K^-)_{\text{low}} < 2.25$ and $4 < m^2(K^+K^-)_{\text{high}} < 17$ |
| Region 2 | $1 < m^2(K^+K^-)_{\text{low}} < 2.25$ and $17 < m^2(K^+K^-)_{\text{high}} < 23$ |

Figure 4: (a) Projection of $m^2(\pi^+\pi^-)_{\text{high}}$ for the rescattering region (black region inside the Dalitz plot) with the $B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^+\pi^-$ mass fits for (b) region 1 and (c) region 2 ($B^-$ candidates on the left). Regions are separated by a black vertical line in (a), see Table III.

are also analysed. For the latter mode, presented in Fig. 8, no significant asymmetry is observed in the integrated asymmetry. However a clear $\chi_{c0}(1P)$ contribution around 11.6 GeV$^2$/c$^4$ is visible. For $B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\pi^-$ decays, a large asymmetry is observed, shown in Fig. 9, as well as a $\chi_{c0}(1P)$ contribution around 11.6 GeV$^2$/c$^4$. The $\chi_{c0}(1P)$ contribution comes from the $B$ decay, as no such structure was observed in the invariant mass sidebands. The asymmetry results from the invariant mass fits for all regions are summarized in Table IV.
Figure 5: (a) $m^2(K^+\pi^-)$ projection for the rescattering region with the $B^\pm \rightarrow K^\pm \pi^+\pi^-$ mass fits for (b) region 1 and (c) region 2 ($B^-$ on the left). Regions are separated by a black vertical line in (a).

Figure 6: (a) $m^2(K^+\pi^-)$ projection for the rescattering region with the $B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm K^+K^-$ mass fits for (b) region 1 ($B^-$ on the left).
Figure 7: (a) $m^2(K^+K^-)$ projection for the rescattering region with the $B^\pm \to K^\pm K^+K^-$ mass fits for (b) region 1 and (c) region 2 ($B^-$ on the left). Regions are separated by a black vertical line in (a).

Figure 8: (a) $m^2(K^+K^-)$ projection in the high-mass region (region 2) for $B^\pm \to \pi^\pm K^+K^-$ decays showing the $\chi_{c0}$ contribution. The mass fit for this region ($B^-$ on the left) is shown in (b).
Figure 9: (a) $m^2(\pi^+\pi^-)_{\text{high}}$ projection in the high-mass region (region 3) for $B^\pm \to \pi^+\pi^+\pi^-$ decays. The mass fit for this region ($B^-$ on the left) is shown in (b).

Table IV: Signal yield ($N_{\text{sig}}$), raw asymmetry ($A_{\text{raw}}$) and $A_{\text{CP}}$ corrected for production and detection asymmetries. The $A_{\text{CP}}$ uncertainties are statistical, systematic and associated to the control channel, respectively.

| $B^{\pm} \to \pi^+\pi^+\pi^-$ | $N_{\text{sig}}$ | $A_{\text{raw}}$ | $A_{\text{CP}}$ |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Region 1      | $14.330 \pm 150$ | $+0.309 \pm 0.009$ | $+0.303 \pm 0.009 \pm 0.004 \pm 0.003$ |
| Region 2      | $4850 \pm 130$  | $-0.287 \pm 0.017$ | $-0.284 \pm 0.017 \pm 0.007 \pm 0.003$ |
| Region 3      | $2270 \pm 60$   | $+0.747 \pm 0.027$ | $+0.745 \pm 0.027 \pm 0.018 \pm 0.003$ |

| $B^{\pm} \to K^\pm\pi^+\pi^-$ | $N_{\text{sig}}$ | $A_{\text{raw}}$ | $A_{\text{CP}}$ |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Region 1                     | $41.980 \pm 280$| $+0.201 \pm 0.005$| $+0.217 \pm 0.005 \pm 0.005 \pm 0.003$ |
| Region 2                     | $27.040 \pm 250$| $-0.149 \pm 0.007$| $-0.145 \pm 0.007 \pm 0.006 \pm 0.003$ |

| $B^{\pm} \to \pi^+K^\pm K^-$ | $N_{\text{sig}}$ | $A_{\text{raw}}$ | $A_{\text{CP}}$ |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Region 1                     | $11.430 \pm 170$| $-0.363 \pm 0.010$| $-0.358 \pm 0.010 \pm 0.014 \pm 0.003$ |
| Region 2                     | $2600 \pm 120$  | $+0.075 \pm 0.031$| $+0.097 \pm 0.031 \pm 0.005 \pm 0.003$ |

| $B^{\pm} \to K^\pm K^\pm K^-$ | $N_{\text{sig}}$ | $A_{\text{raw}}$ | $A_{\text{CP}}$ |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Region 1                     | $76.020 \pm 350$| $-0.189 \pm 0.004$| $-0.178 \pm 0.004 \pm 0.004 \pm 0.003$ |
| Region 2                     | $37.440 \pm 320$| $+0.030 \pm 0.005$| $+0.043 \pm 0.005 \pm 0.004 \pm 0.003$ |
VIII Partial width difference

A relation between \( CP \) violation in \( B^\pm \to K^{\pm}\pi^+\pi^- \) and \( B^\pm \to \pi^+K^+K^- \), as well as that between \( B^\pm \to K^{\pm}K^+K^- \) and \( B^\pm \to \pi^+\pi^+\pi^- \), based on U-spin symmetry [7,9], is investigated. This symmetry is an SU(2) subgroup of the flavour SU(3) group, under which the \((d,s)\) pairs of quarks form a doublet, similar to \((u,d)\) in isospin symmetry. U-spin symmetry predicts the relationship between the differences of the partial decay widths for the decays \( B^\pm \to K^{\pm}\pi^+\pi^- \) and \( B^\pm \to \pi^+K^+K^- \) to be

\[
\Delta \Gamma(B^\pm \to \pi^+K^+K^-) = -\Delta \Gamma(B^\pm \to K^{\pm}\pi^+\pi^-). \tag{6}
\]

A similar prediction is made between the symmetric decay channels \( B^\pm \to \pi^+\pi^+\pi^- \) and \( B^\pm \to K^{\pm}K^+K^- \),

\[
\Delta \Gamma(B^\pm \to \pi^+\pi^+\pi^-) = -\Delta \Gamma(B^\pm \to K^{\pm}K^+K^-). \tag{7}
\]

These relations state that the difference in the number of events associated to \( CP \) violation must be the same, independently of the branching fraction of each decay.

The above relations can be rewritten in terms of the measured integrated asymmetries, branching fractions and the \( B \) meson lifetime. For the \( B^\pm \to \pi^+K^+K^- \) decay the result is

\[
\Delta \Gamma(B^\pm \to \pi^+K^+K^-) = \frac{A_{CP}(B^\pm \to \pi^+K^+K^-)B(B^\pm \to \pi^+K^+K^-)}{\tau(B^\pm)}, \tag{8}
\]

where \( \tau(B^\pm) \) is the \( B^\pm \) lifetime and \( B \) is the average branching fraction. Using the measured values of the integrated asymmetry and branching fractions [12], the U-spin relationship between \( B^\pm \to K^{\pm}\pi^+\pi^- \) and \( B^\pm \to \pi^+K^+K^- \) is

\[
\frac{A_{CP}(B^\pm \to \pi^+K^+K^-)B(B^\pm \to \pi^+K^+K^-)}{A_{CP}(B^\pm \to K^{\pm}\pi^+\pi^-)B(B^\pm \to K^{\pm}\pi^+\pi^-)} = -0.92 \pm 0.18.
\]

Similarly, the pair of \( B^\pm \to \pi^+\pi^+\pi^- \) and \( B^\pm \to K^{\pm}K^+K^- \) decays give the result

\[
\frac{A_{CP}(B^\pm \to \pi^+\pi^+\pi^-)B(B^\pm \to \pi^+\pi^+\pi^-)}{A_{CP}(B^\pm \to K^{\pm}K^+K^-)B(B^\pm \to K^{\pm}K^+K^-)} = -1.06 \pm 0.08.
\]

Both results are consistent with \(-1\) (uncertainties are statistical only), as predicted by the U-spin symmetry approach. Furthermore, Refs. [10] [11] also predicted the relations \( \Delta \Gamma(B^\pm \to \pi^+K^+K^-) = \Delta \Gamma(B^\pm \to K^{\pm}\pi^+\pi^-) \) and \( \Delta \Gamma(B^\pm \to K^{\pm}\pi^+\pi^-) = \Delta \Gamma(B^\pm \to \pi^+\pi^+\pi^-) \). In this work the ratios are measured to be (uncertainties are statistical only):

\[
\frac{A_{CP}(B^\pm \to \pi^+K^+K^-)B(B^\pm \to \pi^+K^+K^-)}{A_{CP}(B^\pm \to K^{\pm}K^+K^-)B(B^\pm \to K^{\pm}K^+K^-)} = 0.47 \pm 0.04,
\]

\[
\frac{A_{CP}(B^\pm \to \pi^+\pi^+\pi^-)B(B^\pm \to \pi^+\pi^+\pi^-)}{A_{CP}(B^\pm \to K^{\pm}\pi^+\pi^-)B(B^\pm \to K^{\pm}\pi^+\pi^-)} = 0.48 \pm 0.09.
\]

The results presented here reveal a central value with an opposite sign with respect to the U-spin prediction of \(-1\). However, one may not forget that the U-spin symmetry
prediction occurs in a scenario with momentum-independent amplitudes, in which no hadronic final-state interaction where two pairs of channels are coupled through the \(\pi\pi \leftrightarrow KK\) interaction is considered. When those contributions are included, one may find ratios that differ from \(-1\) without necessarily claiming the observation of U-spin symmetry breaking. All these implications are further discussed in Refs. [10][11].

IX Summary and conclusions

In summary, the inclusive CP asymmetries of the \(B^\pm \rightarrow K^{\pm}\pi^+\pi^-\), \(B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm K^+K^-\), \(B^\pm \rightarrow K^\pm K^+K^-\) and \(B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm\pi^+\pi^-\) charmless three-body decays are measured with data corresponding to 5.9 fb\(^{-1}\) of integrated luminosity, collected by the LHCb detector between 2015 and 2018. Significant inclusive CP asymmetries are found for the latter three \(B\) decay channels, the last two observed for the first time. The asymmetry in localized regions of phase space shows that the CP asymmetries are not uniformly distributed in the phase space, with positive and negative \(A_{CP}\) appearing in the same charged \(B\) decay channel. The results of the previous LHCb analysis [6] are confirmed with high localized CP asymmetries in several regions of the Dalitz plot. It is also confirmed that, in the \(\pi\pi \rightarrow KK\) rescattering region, between 1 and 2.25 GeV\(^2/c^4\) in both \(\pi\pi\) and \(KK\) invariant masses, significant CP violation is present in the four analysed channels. For the \(B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm\pi^+\pi^-\), \(B^\pm \rightarrow K^{\pm}\pi^+\pi^-\) and \(B^\pm \rightarrow K^{\pm}K^+K^-\) decays, an \(A_{CP}\) sign change is observed across the phase space.

Additionally, an indication of the \(\chi_{c0}(1P)\) resonance is seen in the high \(\pi^\pm\pi^-\) and \(K^+K^-\) invariant mass regions of \(B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm\pi^+\pi^-\) and \(B^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm K^+K^-\) decays for the first time. There is an indication of CP violation involving this resonance, as predicted several years ago in Refs. [33][34]. The combination of the present \(A_{CP}\) results with the recent LHCb relative branching fraction results for these decays, shows good agreement with the U-spin symmetry proposed in Refs. [7][9].

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LHCb collaboration

R. Aaij32, A.S.W. Abdelmoteleh54, C. Abellan Beteta44, F. Abudinë54, T. Ackermayr34, B. Adeva40, M. Adinolfi48, H. Afsharnia9, C. Agapopoulou14, C.A. Aidala27, S. Aiola25, Z. Ajaltouni9, S. Akar57, K. Akiba34, J. Albrecht12, F. Alessio42, M. Alexander38, A. Alfonso Albero30, Z. Aliouche22, P. Alvarez Cartelle45, S. Amato14, J.L. Amey48, D. An42, L. Andresson42, M. Andreianov38, M. Andreotti3, D. Ao16, F. Archilli11, A. Artamonov38, M. Artuso62, K. Arzymatov38, E. Aslanyan10, M. Atzeni44, B. Audurier12, S. Bachmann14, M. Bachmayer42, J.J. Back36, A. Bailly-reyre13, P. Baladron Rodriguez16, V. Balagura12, W. Baldini24, J. Baptista de Souza Leite27, M. Barbetti27, R.J. Barlow46, S. Barsuk1, W. Barter53, M. Bartolini49, F. Baryshnikov38, J.M. Basels14, G. Bassi23, B. Batsukh32, A. Battig13, A. Bay44, A. Beck34, M. Becker41, F. Bedeschi21, I.B. Bediaga1, A. Beite16, V. Belavin38, S. Belin27, V. Bello14, K. Belous38, I. Belov39, I. Belyaev30, G. Benicenni23, E. Ben-Haim14, A. Berezhnov38, R. Bernet41, D. Berninghoff17, H.C. Bernstein62, C. Bertella56, A. Bertolin26, C. Betancourt41, F. Betti24, Is. Beszhyiko42, S. Bhasin40, J. Bhom35, L. Bian57, M.S. Bieker1, N.V. Biesuz21, S. Bibani47, P. Biloi13, A. Bielchowsky16, M. Birch22, F.C.R. Bishop49, A. Bitadze56, A. Bizzeti16, M. Bjorn57, M.P. Blago16, T. Blake50, F. Blanc48, S. Blusk62, D. Bobulsk65, J.A. Boelhanke13, O. Boente Garcia46, T. Boettcher38, A. Boldyrev35, N. Bondar38, S. Borghi56, M. Borisyak38, M. Borsato47, J.T. Borsuk48, S.A. Bouchiba43, T.J.V. Bowcock54, A. Boyer12, C. Bozzi11, M.J. Bradley35, S. Braun64, A. Brea Rodriguez49, J. Brodzicka35, A. Brossa Gonzalez50, D. Brundu27, A. Buonaura40, L. Buonincontri28, A.T. Burke56, C. Burr16, A. Bursche66, A. Butkevich16, J.S. Butter32, J. Buytaert42, W. Byczynski42, S. Cadeddu27, H. Cai57, R. Calabrese21,14, L. Calefice15,16, S. Cali24, R. Calladine37, M. Calvi26, M. Calvo Gomez1, P. Camargo Magalhaes48, P. Campana24, A.F. Campoverde Quezada42, S. Capelli26, M. L. Capriotti20,4, A. Carbonbe20,4, G. Carboni34, R. Cardinale24, L. A. Cardinii27, L. Carli10, P. Carniti26,16, L. Carus14, A. Casais Vital40, R. Caspary17, G. Cassi34, M. Cattaneo42, G. Cavallero42, V. Cavallini21,4, S. Celani43, J. Cerasoli16, D. Cervenkov56, A.J. Chadwick54, M.G. Chapman48, M. Charles10, Ph. Charpentier42, C.A. Chavez Barajas54, M. Chefdeville10, C. Chen16, A. Chernov35, V. Chobanova41, A. Cholak32, M. Chrzaszcz25, A. Chubykin38, V. Chulikov26, P. Ciambrone1, M.F. Cicala12, X. Cid Vidal41, G. Ciezarek12, P.E.L. Clarke32, M. Clemencic42, H.V. Cliff41, J. Cloosier42, J.L. Cobbedick34, V. Coco42, J.A.B. Coelho11, J. Cogan11, E. Cogneras16, L. Cococà17, P. Collins42, T. Colombo42, L. Congedo19, A. Contu27, N. Cooke17, G. Coombs54, I. Corredoiria31, G. Corti14, C.M. Costa Sobral54, B. Couturier42, D.C. Craik38, J. Crklovski61, M. Cruz Torres41, R. Currie52, C.L. Da Silva60, O. Dadabaev38, L. Dai65, E. Dall’Occo14, J. Dalseno40, C. D’Ambrosio42, A. Danilina38, P. d’Argent42, J.E. Davies56, A. Davis56, O. De Aguiar Francisco56, J. De Boer42, K. De Bruyn16, S. De Capua36, M. De Cian4, U. De Freitas Carneiro Da Graca1, E. De Lucia23, J.M. De Miranda1, L. De Paula30, M. De Serio19, D. De Simone42, P. De Simone21, F. De Vellis15, J.A. de Vries74, C.T. Dean69, F. Debernardis19, J. Decamp24, V. Dediu11, L. Del Buono13, B. Delaney40, H.-P. Dembinski10, V. Denysenko44, O. Deschamps53, F. Detto44, B. Dew17, A. Di Cicco45, P. Di Nezza43, S. Didenko38, L. Dieste Maronas40, H. Dijkstra42, S. Ding44, V. Dobishuk30, C. Dong13, A.M. Donohoe18, F. Dordevic24, A.C. dos Reis4
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Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas (CBPF), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Center for High Energy Physics, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
Institute Of High Energy Physics (IHEP), Beijing, China
School of Physics State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, Peking University, Beijing, China
University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China
Institute of Particle Physics, Central China Normal University, Wuhan, Hubei, China
Université Savoie Mont Blanc, CNRS, IN2P3-LAPP, Annecy, France
Université Clermont Auvergne, CNRS/IN2P3, LPC, Clermont-Ferrand, France
Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS/IN2P3, CPPM, Marseille, France
Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS/IN2P3, IJCLab, Orsay, France
Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, CNRS/IN2P3, Ecole Polytechnique, Institut Polytechnique de Paris, Palaiseau, France
LPNHE, Sorbonne Université, Paris Diderot Sorbonne Paris Cité, CNRS/IN2P3, Paris, France
I. Physikalisches Institut, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany
Fakultät Physik, Technische Universität Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany
Max-Planck-Institut für Kernphysik (MPIK), Heidelberg, Germany
Physikalisches Institut, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany
School of Physics, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland
INFN Sezione di Bari, Bari, Italy
INFN Sezione di Bologna, Bologna, Italy
INFN Sezione di Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy
INFN Sezione di Firenze, Firenze, Italy
INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy
INFN Sezione di Genova, Genova, Italy
INFN Sezione di Milano, Milano, Italy
INFN Sezione di Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy
INFN Sezione di Cagliari, Monserrato, Italy
Università degli Studi di Padova, Università e INFN, Padova, Padova, Italy
INFN Sezione di Pisa, Pisa, Italy
INFN Sezione di Roma La Sapienza, Roma, Italy
INFN Sezione di Roma Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy
Nikhef National Institute for Subatomic Physics, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Nikhef National Institute for Subatomic Physics and VU University Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands
AGH - University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Physics and Applied Computer Science, Kraków, Poland
Henryk Niewodniczanski Institute of Nuclear Physics Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków, Poland
National Center for Nuclear Research (NCBJ), Warsaw, Poland
Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Bucharest-Magurele, Romania
Affiliated with an institute covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN
ICCB, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
Instituto Galego de Física de Altas Enerxías (IGFAE), Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Instituto de Física Corpuscular, Centro Mixto Universidad de Valencia - CSIC, Valencia, Spain
European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Geneva, Switzerland
Institute of Physics, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Lausanne, Switzerland
Physik-Institut, Universität Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland
NSC Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology (NSC KIPT), Kharkiv, Ukraine
Institute for Nuclear Research of the National Academy of Sciences (KINR), Kyiv, Ukraine
University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom
H.H. Wills Physics Laboratory, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom
Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom
Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom
STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom
Oliver Lodge Laboratory, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom
Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, United States
Department of Physics, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom
Department of Physics and Astronomy, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, associated to
Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, associated to
Physics and Micro Electronic College, Hunan University, Changsha City, China, associated to
Guanzhou Provincial Key Laboratory of Nuclear Science, Guangdong-Hong Kong Joint Laboratory of Quantum Matter, Institute of Quantum Matter, South China Normal University, Guangzhou, China, associated to
School of Physics and Technology, Wuhan University, Wuhan, China, associated to
Departamento de Fisica, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogota, Colombia, associated to
Universitat Bonn - Helmholtz-Institut für Strahlen und Kernphysik, Bonn, Germany, associated to
Institut für Physik, Universität Rostock, Rostock, Germany, associated to
Eotvos Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary, associated to
INFN Sezione di Perugia, Perugia, Italy, associated to
Van Swinderen Institute, University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands, associated to
Universiteit Maastricht, Maastricht, Netherlands, associated to
DS4DS, La Salle, Universitat Ramon Llull, Barcelona, Spain, associated to
Department of Physics and Astronomy, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden, associated to
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, United States, associated to
Universidade Federal do Triângulo Mineiro (UFTM), Uberaba-MG, Brazil
Central South U., Changsha, China
Hangzhou Institute for Advanced Study, UCAS, Hangzhou, China
Excellence Cluster ORIGINS, Munich, Germany
Universidad Nacional Autònoma de Honduras, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Università di Bari, Bari, Italy
Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy
Università di Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy
Università di Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy
Università di Firenze, Firenze, Italy
Università di Genova, Genova, Italy
Università degli Studi di Milano, Milano, Italy
Università di Milano Bicocca, Milano, Italy
Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy
Università di Padova, Padova, Italy
Università di Perugia, Perugia, Italy
Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, Italy
Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy
Università della Basilicata, Potenza, Italy
Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy
Università di Siena, Siena, Italy
Università di Urbino, Urbino, Italy
MSU - Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT), Iligan, Philippines
†Deceased