Measurement of the $\Lambda_b$ polarization and angular parameters in $\Lambda_b \rightarrow J/\psi \Lambda$ decays from pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 8 TeV

The CMS Collaboration

Abstract

An analysis of the decay $\Lambda_b \rightarrow J/\psi(\rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)\Lambda(\rightarrow p\pi^-)$ is performed to measure the $\Lambda_b$ polarization and three angular parameters in data from pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 8 TeV, collected by the CMS experiment at the LHC. The $\Lambda_b$ polarization is measured to be $0.00 \pm 0.06$ (stat) $\pm 0.06$ (syst) and the parity-violating asymmetry parameter is determined to be $0.14 \pm 0.14$ (stat) $\pm 0.10$ (syst). The measurements are compared to various theoretical predictions, including those from perturbative quantum chromodynamics.

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1 Introduction

The decay \( \Lambda_b \rightarrow J/\psi \Lambda \) is a rich source of information about the effect of strong interactions in hadronic decays. For this particular decay, perturbative quantum chromodynamics can be applied and therefore a systematic approach can be taken to study its characteristics. Several techniques \([1-10]\) are used to study and calculate the decay amplitudes and the effect of the b quark polarization on this decay. The most interesting parameters that can be measured are the polarization, \( P \), and the parity-violating decay asymmetry, \( a_1 \), of the \( \Lambda_b \). The LHCb and ATLAS experiments have reported measurements on this decay \([11, 12]\). The LHCb Collaboration measured the \( \Lambda_b \) polarization and the decay amplitudes, while ATLAS assumed a \( \Lambda_b \) polarization of zero and measured the amplitudes. In this paper, a measurement of the \( \Lambda_b \) transverse polarization is presented using the decay \( \Lambda_b \rightarrow J/\psi \Lambda \), with \( J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- \) and \( \Lambda \rightarrow p\pi^- \). Charge-conjugate modes are implied throughout this paper unless otherwise stated. The \( \Lambda_b \) baryons used in this measurement come from both direct production in pp collisions and decays of heavier baryons \([1, 13-15]\). The data were collected with the CMS detector in pp collisions at center-of-mass energies of 7 and 8 TeV, corresponding to integrated luminosities of 5.2 and 19.8 fb\(^{-1}\), respectively.

2 Angular distribution

The \( \Lambda_b \rightarrow J/\psi \Lambda \) decay into the \( \mu^+ \mu^- \) p\( \pi^- \) final state is illustrated in Fig. 1. In pp collisions, we define the polarization of the \( \Lambda_b \) as the mean value of the \( \Lambda_b \) spin along the unit vector:

\[
\hat{n} = \frac{\vec{p}_{\text{beam}} \times \vec{p}_{\Lambda_b}}{|\vec{p}_{\text{beam}} \times \vec{p}_{\Lambda_b}|},
\]

(1)

dimensional, where \( \vec{p}_{\text{beam}} \) is in the direction of the counterclockwise proton beam direction \([16]\), and \( \vec{p}_{\Lambda_b} \) is the \( \Lambda_b \) momentum. The decay is described by four complex helicity amplitudes \( T_{\lambda_1,\lambda_2} \), with \( \lambda_1 = \pm 1/2 \) and \( \lambda_2 = \pm 1, 0 \) referring to the helicities of the \( \Lambda \) and \( J/\psi \) particles, respectively. The angular distribution is a function of five decay angles \((\theta_{\Lambda}, \theta_p, \theta_{\mu}, \phi_p, \phi_{\mu})\) and has the form \([8]\):

\[
\frac{d^5T}{d\cos\theta_{\Lambda}d\Omega_p d\Omega_{\mu}}(\theta_{\Lambda}, \theta_p, \theta_{\mu}, \phi_p, \phi_{\mu}) = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^3} \sum_{i=1}^{20} w_i(T_{\lambda_1,\lambda_2}) v_i(P, a_\Lambda) w_i(\theta_{\Lambda}, \theta_p, \theta_{\mu}, \phi_p, \phi_{\mu}),
\]

(2)

where \( w_i \) are trigonometric functions, \( u_i \) are bilinear combinations of the helicity amplitudes \( T_{\lambda_1,\lambda_2} \) and \( v_i \) stands for 1, \( P, a_\Lambda \), or \( P a_\Lambda \); \( P \) is the \( \Lambda_b \) polarization and \( a_\Lambda \) is the asymmetry parameter in the decay \( \Lambda \rightarrow p\pi^- \). The angle \( \theta_{\Lambda} \) is the polar angle of the \( \Lambda \) momentum relative to \( \hat{n} \) in the \( \Lambda_b \) rest frame; \( \theta_p \) and \( \phi_p \) are the polar and azimuthal angles of the proton, respectively, defined with respect to the axes \( \hat{z}_1 = \vec{p}_{\Lambda}/|\vec{p}_{\Lambda}| \) and \( \hat{y}_1 = (\hat{n} \times \vec{p}_{\Lambda})/|\hat{n} \times \vec{p}_{\Lambda}| \) in the rest frame of the \( \Lambda \); and the angles \( \theta_{\mu} \) and \( \phi_{\mu} \) are the polar and azimuthal angles, respectively, of the positively charged muon, defined with respect to the axes \( \hat{z}_2 = \vec{p}_{J/\psi}/|\vec{p}_{J/\psi}| \) and \( \hat{y}_2 = (\hat{n} \times \vec{p}_{J/\psi})/|\hat{n} \times \vec{p}_{J/\psi}| \) in the \( J/\psi \) rest frame. Here, \( \vec{p}_{\Lambda} \) and \( \vec{p}_{J/\psi} \) are the momenta of the \( \Lambda \) and \( J/\psi \), respectively, and \( d\Omega_p = d(\cos\theta_p)d\phi_p \) and \( d\Omega_{\mu} = d(\cos\theta_{\mu})d\phi_{\mu} \) are differential solid angles. Assuming uniform detector acceptance over the azimuthal angles \( \phi_p \) and \( \phi_{\mu} \), the
The CMS detector

The CMS detector is used to study a wide range of phenomena produced in high-energy collisions, with its central feature being a superconducting solenoid of 6 m internal diameter, providing a magnetic field of 3.8 T. A silicon pixel and strip tracker, a lead tungstate scintillating crystal electromagnetic calorimeter, and a brass and scintillator sampling hadron calorimeter, including a central barrel and endcap detectors, are located within the magnetic volume.
To describe the angular distribution in the decay $\Lambda_b \to J/\psi \Lambda$, with $J/\psi \to \mu^+ \mu^-$ and $\Lambda \to p \pi^-$.

| $i$ | $u_i$ | $v_i$ | $w_i$ |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| 1   | 1     | 1     | 1     |
| 2   | $\alpha_2$ | $\alpha$ | $\Lambda$ | $\cos \theta_p$ |
| 3   | $-\alpha_1$ | $P$ | $\Lambda$ | $\cos \theta_p$ |
| 4   | $-(1 + 2\gamma_0)/3$ | $\alpha_1 P$ | $\Lambda$ | $\cos \theta_p \cos \theta_p$ |
| 5   | $\gamma_0/2$ | 1 | $(3\cos^2 \theta_\mu - 1)/2$ |
| 6   | $(3\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)/4$ | $\alpha_\Lambda$ | $\Lambda$ | $(3\cos^2 \theta_\mu - 1)/2$ |
| 7   | $(\alpha_1 - 3\alpha_2)/4$ | $P$ | $\cos \theta_\Lambda (3\cos^2 \theta_\mu - 1)/2$ |
| 8   | $(\gamma_0 - 4)/6$ | $\alpha_\Lambda P$ | $\Lambda$ | $(3\cos^2 \theta_\mu - 1)/2$ |

The silicon tracker detects charged particles within the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 2.5$. It consists of 1440 silicon pixel and 15 148 silicon strip detector modules. For nonisolated particles with transverse momentum of $1 < p_T < 10$ GeV and $|\eta| < 1.4$, the track resolutions are typically 1.5% in $p_T$ and 25–90 (45–150)$\mu$m in the transverse (longitudinal) impact parameter [18].

Muons are detected in gas-ionization chambers within the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 2.4$, with detection planes made using three technologies: drift tubes, cathode strip chambers, and resistive plate chambers [19]. The global event reconstruction (also called particle-flow event reconstruction [20]) consists of reconstructing and identifying each individual particle with an optimized combination of all subdetector information. In this process, muons are identified as a track in the silicon tracker consistent with either a track or several hits in the muon system, associated with an energy deficit in the calorimeters.

Events of interest are selected using a two-tiered trigger system [21]. The first level (L1), composed of custom hardware processors, uses information from the calorimeters and muon detectors to select events at a rate of around 100 kHz within a time interval of less than 4$\mu$s. The second level, known as the high-level trigger (HLT), consists of a farm of processors running a version of the full event reconstruction software optimized for fast processing, and reduces the event rate to around 1 kHz before data storage.

A more detailed description of the CMS detector, a definition of the coordinate system used and the relevant kinematic variables, can be found in Ref. [16].

## 4 Data and simulated events

We use data collected with a trigger designed for events containing a $J/\psi$ meson decaying to two muons that form a displaced vertex relative to the mean pp collision point (beamspot). The requirement on the displacement does not affect the angular distributions of the reconstructed $\Lambda_b$ decay products. The dimuon trigger configurations were changed during the data taking at different center-of-mass energies, with increasingly stringent requirements to maintain an acceptable trigger rate as the instantaneous luminosity increased. The requirements of the different trigger versions are: the $J/\psi$ candidates are selected in the invariant mass window 2.5–4.0 GeV and 2.9–3.3 GeV depending on the version; the angle ($\beta$) between the reconstructed momentum vector of the dimuon system and the vector pointing from the beamspot position to the dimuon vertex must have a value of $\cos \beta > 0.9$; the distance between the beamspot and the dimuon vertex in the transverse plane must have a value that is at least a factor of three larger than its uncertainty (standard deviation or SD); the muon pair must satisfy $p_T^{\mu\mu} > 6.5$ or 6.9 GeV in the different versions; the $\chi^2$ probability of the fit of the two muons to a common vertex must exceed 0.05, 0.10, or 0.15 from the earliest to the latest version; each muon must be
Reconstruction and event selection

in $|\eta(\mu)| < 2.2$ and have $p_T^{\mu} > 3.5$ or $4$ GeV; and the distance of closest approach of each muon to the common vertex in the transverse plane must be less than $0.5$ cm.

Simulated events of the signal decay are used to study the effects of detector acceptance and selection on the reconstructed angular distributions. The events are generated using PYTHIA 6.4 [22] for production and hadronization, and EVTGEN [23] is used to describe the band chadron decays. The generated events are passed through the full CMS detector simulation based on GEANT4 [24]. The simulated event samples are generated to reproduce $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and $8$ TeV data-taking conditions, where additional simulation of pp interactions in the same or nearby beam crossings and the impact of the HLT are included. Simulated events are reconstructed and selected using the same algorithms and requirements as used for data.

5 Reconstruction and event selection

The offline selection requires pairs of oppositely charged muons originating from a common vertex to form the J/$\psi$ candidates. The standard CMS muon reconstruction procedure [19] is used to identify the muons. Since the trigger changed slightly over the different data-taking periods, the offline selection is required to be more restrictive than the most-stringent trigger, and are summarized as follows: (i) each muon must have $p_T^{\mu} > 4$ GeV and the dimuon transverse momentum must satisfy $p_T^{\mu\mu} > 8$ GeV; (ii) the $\chi^2$ probability must exceed $0.15$; and (iii) the dimuon invariant mass must lie within $\pm 150$ MeV of the world-average J/$\psi$ mass [17]. Additional requirements are the same as the trigger selection and, to reduce background, the J/$\psi$ candidates must satisfy $\cos \beta > 0.99$.

The $\Lambda$ candidates are constructed from pairs of oppositely charged tracks that have a successful fit to a common vertex. Since the default CMS algorithms cannot distinguish between pions and protons, the higher- and lower-momentum tracks are assumed to have the proton and pion masses [17], respectively. The selections used for $\Lambda$ and $K_0^0$ particles are detailed in Ref. [25]. They are optimized to reduce background using the following additional requirements: (i) each track is required to have at least 6 hits in the silicon tracker and a $\chi^2$ track fit per degree of freedom $< 7$; (ii) the tracks coming from the $\Lambda$ decay are required to have $p_T^{\pi} > 0.3$ GeV, $p_T^p > 1.0$ GeV; (iii) the transverse impact parameter of the tracks relative to the beamspot is required to be greater than $3$ SD; (iv) the probability of the two-track vertex fit must exceed $2\%$; (v) the invariant mass of the $\Lambda$ candidate is selected to lie within $\pm 9$ MeV of the world-average value [17] and satisfy $p_T^{\pi\pi} > 1.3$ GeV; and (vi) to reduce the contamination of $K_0^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-$ decays, events are removed if their invariant mass falls within $\pm 20$ MeV of the $K_0^0$ mass when the proton candidate is given the charged pion mass.

The $\Lambda_b$ candidates are fitted to a common vertex by combining the J/$\psi$ and $\Lambda$ candidates, with the respective mass constraints to the world-average values of the J/$\psi$ and $\Lambda$ masses [17]. The selection of $\Lambda_b$ candidates is optimized to reduce background with the additional requirements: $p_T^{J/\psi\Lambda} > 10$ GeV, a $\chi^2$ probability of the fit to the J/$\psi\Lambda$ vertex $> 3\%$, and the J/$\psi\Lambda$ invariant mass $5.40 < m_{J/\psi\Lambda} < 5.84$ GeV.

To extract the number of signal and background events and to define the signal and sidebands regions, unbinned maximum likelihood fits to the reconstructed invariant mass ($m_{J/\psi\Lambda}$) distributions are performed, using separate data sets of the $\Lambda_b$ and $\bar{\Lambda}_b$ candidates at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and $8$ TeV. The signal shape is modeled by two Gaussian functions with different SDs, $\sigma_1$ and $\sigma_2$, but common mean $\mu_{J/\psi\Lambda}$, and the background by a first-order polynomial. We define in the four data sets the signal region as $\mu_{J/\psi\Lambda} \pm 16$ MeV, the lower sideband region as $[5.46, 5.54]$ GeV,
and the upper sideband region as $[5.70, 5.78]$ GeV. From the fits the $\Lambda_b$ yields are $981 \pm 39$ and $2072 \pm 55$ signal events, and the $\Lambda_b$ yields are $916 \pm 40$ and $1974 \pm 53$ signal events at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and $8$ TeV, respectively.

6 Measurement of the polarization and angular parameters

The analysis extracts the $\Lambda_b$ polarization, $P$, and the angular decay parameters $a_1$, $a_2$, and $\gamma_0$. The results are obtained from an unbinned maximum likelihood fit to the $J/\psi \Lambda$ invariant mass distribution and the three angular variables $\Theta_3 = \cos \theta_\Lambda, \cos \theta_p, \cos \theta_\mu$, using the extended likelihood function:

$$L = \exp \left( -N_{\text{sig}} - N_{\text{bkg}} \right) \prod_1^N \left[ N_{\text{sig}} P_{\text{sig}} + N_{\text{bkg}} P_{\text{bkg}} \right],$$

where $N$ is the total number of events, $N_{\text{sig}}$ and $N_{\text{bkg}}$ are the yields of signal and background events, respectively, determined from the fit in Section 5, and $P_{\text{sig}}$ and $P_{\text{bkg}}$ represent the probability density functions (PDFs) for the signal and background, respectively. The $P_{\text{sig}}$ has the form:

$$P_{\text{sig}} = F_{\text{sig}}(\Theta_3) \epsilon(\Theta_3) G(m_{J/\psi \Lambda}),$$

where $F_{\text{sig}}$ represents the theoretical angular distribution given by Eq. (3) and $G$ is the sum of two Gaussian functions used to model the $J/\psi \Lambda$ invariant mass distribution, as mentioned in Section 5. The effect of the detector on the angular distribution is taken into account by the factor $\epsilon$ that represents the efficiency as a function of the angles.

To estimate the angular efficiency, simulated events of $\Lambda_b \rightarrow J/\psi \Lambda$ decays are generated with uniform distributions in $\cos \theta_\Lambda, \cos \theta_p, \cos \theta_\mu$. After full detector simulation, reconstruction, and implementation of the final selection requirements, the slight differences between the simulated events and the background-subtracted data are minimized through a weighting procedure where weights are assigned to the simulated events to match the data. The weights are computed with an iterative process in which, for each iteration, the histograms of a selection variable in background-subtracted data and simulated events are used to calculate the ratio bin-by-bin (weight) with its propagated statistical uncertainty. The final weight per event is the product of the weights in each iteration. The efficiency distributions as a function of the variables are fit with a product of Chebyshev polynomials, where the coefficients are obtained for $\Lambda_b$ and $\Lambda_b$ at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and $8$ TeV in separate likelihood fits. The simulated efficiency distributions and the results of these fits are shown in Fig. 2 for the $\Lambda_b$ candidates at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV.

The background PDF$_{\text{bkg}}$ is given by the product of a first-order polynomial $P(m_{J/\psi \Lambda})$ for the invariant mass and an angular distribution function $F_{\text{bkg}}(\Theta_3)$:

$$PDF_{\text{bkg}} = P(m_{J/\psi \Lambda}) F_{\text{bkg}}(\Theta_3).$$

The background angular distributions $F_{\text{bkg}}(\Theta_3)$ are estimated using events from the $m_{J/\psi \Lambda}$ invariant mass sidebands. They are modeled using Chebyshev polynomials for $\cos \theta_\Lambda$ and $\cos \theta_p$, and a product of two complementary error functions for $\cos \theta_\mu$, as shown in Fig. 3 for $\Lambda_b$ candidates at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV.

The complete likelihood function in Eq. (6) is maximized by fitting simultaneously the four data sets for $\Lambda_b$ and $\Lambda_b$ at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and $8$ TeV, allowing for the extraction of the common parameters $P$, $a_1$, $a_2$, and $\gamma_0$. The simultaneous fit is performed in the enriched signal mass range within 3.5 SDs of the mean $\Lambda_b$ mass. This range contains more than 99.9% of the signal events, and
Figure 2: The efficiencies as a function of (a) $\cos \theta_\Lambda$, (b) $\cos \theta_p$, and (c) $\cos \theta_\mu$ obtained from simulated $\Lambda_b \to J/\psi \Lambda$ decays at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV. The vertical bars on the points are the statistical uncertainties in the simulated data, and the lines show the projections of a 3D fit to the distributions using Chebyshev polynomials. The scales of the vertical axes are arbitrary.

Figure 3: The background angular distributions of (a) $\cos \theta_\Lambda$, (b) $\cos \theta_p$, and (c) $\cos \theta_\mu$ are shown, as obtained from the sidebands in the $J/\psi \Lambda$ invariant mass distribution at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV. The vertical bars on the points represent the statistical uncertainties, and the solid lines are the results of the fits to data as described in the text.
significantly reduces the number of background events. As a result, the fit is less sensitive to the modeling discussed above. The fit parameters for the background and efficiency distributions are fixed to those found in the previous fits. The signal and background mass parameters are obtained from previous fits to the mass distribution within 10 SDs, and the numbers of signal and backgrounds events are fixed to the propagated values in the signal mass region. The resulting fit values of the polarization and the three angular decay parameters are:

\[
\begin{align*}
P &= 0.00 \pm 0.06, \\
\alpha_1 &= 0.14 \pm 0.14, \\
\alpha_2 &= -1.11 \pm 0.04, \\
\gamma_0 &= -0.27 \pm 0.08,
\end{align*}
\]

where the uncertainties are statistical only. The correlation matrix of the fitted parameters is shown in Table 2. No strong correlations are found among these parameters. Translating these values to the squares of the helicity amplitudes, the results are:

\[
\begin{align*}
|T^{++}|^2 &= 0.05 \pm 0.04, \\
|T^{+0}|^2 &= -0.10 \pm 0.04, \\
|T^{-0}|^2 &= 0.51 \pm 0.03, \\
|T^{-\gamma}|^2 &= 0.52 \pm 0.04,
\end{align*}
\]

where the uncertainties are statistical only. The projections of the fit are shown in Figs. 4 and 5 for \( \Lambda_b \) and \( \bar{\Lambda}_b \), respectively, using the combined data at \( \sqrt{s} = 7 \) and 8 TeV.

Table 2: Correlation matrix for the fitted parameters.

| Parameter | \( P \) | \( \alpha_1 \) | \( \alpha_2 \) | \( \gamma_0 \) |
|-----------|--------|----------|----------|----------|
| \( P \)   | 1      | -0.039   | -0.029   | 0.116    |
| \( \alpha_1 \) | 1      | -0.207   | -0.030   |          |
| \( \alpha_2 \) | 1      |          | 0.285    |          |
| \( \gamma_0 \) |        |          |          | 1        |

7 Systematic uncertainties

Various sources of systematic uncertainty that affect the measurement of the parameters \( P, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \) and \( \gamma_0 \) are discussed below.

**Fit bias** The bias introduced through the fitting procedure is studied by generating 1000 pseudo-experiments using the measured parameters as inputs. The difference between the input and the mean of the fitted values is taken as the systematic uncertainty.

**Asymmetry parameter \( \alpha_\Lambda \)** This parameter is varied up and down by its uncertainty and the maximum deviation in the final result for each parameter is taken as the systematic uncertainty.

**Model for the background \( m_{J/\psi \Lambda} \) distribution** An exponential function is used instead of the first-order polynomial in the likelihood fit. The parameter of the exponential and the background yield are varied by their uncertainties. The fit is redone taking into account this variation on the background model for the mass, and the differences between these results and the nominal fit results are taken as the systematic uncertainty for this source.
Figure 4: Distributions in (a) $m_{J/\psi \Lambda}$, (b) $\cos \theta_p$, (c) $\cos \theta_\Lambda$, and (d) $\cos \theta_\mu$ for $\Lambda_b$ candidates in the combined $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 8 TeV data. The vertical bars on the points are the statistical uncertainties in the data, the solid line shows the result of the fit, and the dashed and dotted lines represent, respectively, the signal and background contributions from the fit.

**Model for the background angular distributions** Alternative parametrizations of the background angular distributions are used to estimate the systematic uncertainty. For $\cos \theta_\Lambda$ and $\cos \theta_\mu$ the alternative models comprise a superposition of Gaussian kernels, as implemented in RooFit RooKeysPdf [26], while for $\cos \theta_p$ the alternative model is an error function. The differences relative to the nominal results are taken as the systematic uncertainties from the modeling of the background angular distributions.

**Model for the signal $m_{J/\psi \Lambda}$ distribution** We estimate this uncertainty by changing the parameters by their uncertainties, taking into account their correlations. In each sample of $\Lambda_b$ and $\bar{\Lambda}_b$ at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 8 TeV, we use the parameter of the signal mass model with the largest global correlation and add 1 SD to its nominal value if the correlation is positive and subtract 1 SD if the correlation is negative. The difference relative to the nominal result is quoted as a systematic uncertainty.
Figure 5: Distributions in (a) $m_{J/\psi \Lambda}$, (b) $\cos \theta_p$, (c) $\cos \theta_\Lambda$, and (d) $\cos \theta_\mu$ for $\Lambda_b$ candidates in the combined $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 8 TeV data. The vertical bars on the points are the statistical uncertainties in the data, the solid line shows the result of the fit, and the dashed and dotted lines represent, respectively, the signal and background contributions from the fit.

**Angular efficiencies** The values of the Chebyshev polynomial coefficients that model the angular dependence of the efficiencies are changed by their uncertainties. The difference relative to the nominal fitted result is taken as the systematic uncertainty.

**Angular resolution** We study the systematic uncertainty in the angular resolution of the measured observables $\cos \theta_\Lambda$, $\cos \theta_p$, and $\cos \theta_\mu$ by first determining the resolution using simulated events, then taking the difference between the generated (before detector simulation) and reconstructed (fully simulated) distributions of the cosines of the three polar angles, and fitting the resulting distributions to Gaussian functions. Using these models, we generate random numbers that are added to the three polar angles of the events at generation. The difference between the obtained parameters from the likelihood fits using the same events, with and without the added random terms, is quoted as the systematic uncertainty from the angular resolution.

**Azimuthal angle efficiency** Uniform azimuthal efficiencies are assumed throughout the analysis. Besides simplifying the measurement from a five- to a three-dimensional angular
analysis, this assumption also reduces the number of angular parameters from 6 to 3. The effect of the non uniformity in the $\varphi_p$ and $\varphi_\mu$ efficiencies is investigated with 500 pseudo-experiments generated using the five-dimensional angular distribution, multiplied by the polar and azimuthal efficiencies obtained from the full simulation, as well as initializing the 3 extra parameters to values away from the physical boundary. The resulting distributions are then fitted to the nominal three-dimensional angular model. Differences in the mean values of $P$, $\alpha_1$, $\alpha_2$, and $\gamma_0$ relative to the input values (set to the nominal results) are taken as the systematic uncertainties from the impact of the non uniformity of the azimuthal efficiencies.

**Weighting procedure** To estimate the uncertainty from the weighting procedure, we vary each weight by its uncertainty and use this as a new weight to correct the efficiencies, then redo the fit with these new values. The differences between the results of this fit and the nominal values are taken as the systematic uncertainty in each parameter.

**Reconstruction bias** Possible unaccounted reconstruction biases are also considered. To estimate this systematic uncertainty, we use a simulated event sample with input values of the helicity amplitudes and polarization similar to those observed in data. Then, after reconstruction and selection as in data, we fit the simulated events and take the differences between the input and fit values for every angular parameter and polarization. Since we are using the full reconstruction of the simulated events, we subtract in quadrature the systematic sources involved in the fit from those observed differences, and finally take the square root of this subtraction as the estimate of the systematic uncertainty component due to reconstruction bias. This systematic uncertainty is by far the largest uncertainty, however it is still smaller or comparable to the corresponding statistical uncertainty.

The contributions from the different uncertainty sources are assumed to be independent and the total systematic uncertainty is calculated as the quadrature sum of all uncertainties. The values of the systematic uncertainties in each parameter from the individual sources and their quadrature sum are given in Table 3.

Table 3: The sources and values of the systematic uncertainties in each parameter and the total uncertainty. Each value in the table should be multiplied by $10^{-2}$ to obtain the corresponding systematic uncertainty.

| Source                        | $P(\times10^{-2})$ | $\alpha_1(\times10^{-2})$ | $\alpha_2(\times10^{-2})$ | $\gamma_0(\times10^{-2})$ |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fit bias                      | 0.1                | 0.3                      | 0.1                      | 0.2                      |
| Asymmetry parameter $\alpha_\Lambda$ | 0.4                | 0.7                      | 2.0                      | 0.6                      |
| Background $m_{J/\psi\Lambda}$ distribution | 0.01               | 0.5                      | 1.0                      | 0.9                      |
| Background angular distribution | 0.4                | 0.5                      | 0.9                      | 5.0                      |
| Signal $m_{J/\psi\Lambda}$ distribution | 0.01               | 0.3                      | 1.0                      | 1.0                      |
| Angular efficiencies          | 0.1                | 0.3                      | 3.0                      | 1.0                      |
| Angular resolution            | 1.0                | 0.1                      | 2.6                      | 0.8                      |
| Azimuthal angle efficiency    | 0.1                | 1.0                      | 0.3                      | 0.1                      |
| Weighting procedure           | 0.1                | 1.3                      | 0.4                      | 2.0                      |
| Reconstruction bias           | 5.7                | 9.8                      | 2.0                      | 9.1                      |
| Total (quadrature sum)        | 5.8                | 10.0                     | 5.1                      | 11.1                     |
8 Summary and conclusions

Based on an angular analysis of about 6000 $\Lambda_b \rightarrow J/\psi (\rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-) \Lambda (\rightarrow p\pi^-)$ events collected by the CMS experiment at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 8 TeV, a measurement of the $\Lambda_b$ polarization $P$, the parity-violating asymmetry parameter in the $\Lambda_b$ decay $\alpha_1$, the $\Lambda$ longitudinal polarization $\alpha_2$, and the parameter $\gamma_0$ has been performed. The obtained values are

$$P = 0.00 \pm 0.06 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.06 \text{ (syst)},$$

$$\alpha_1 = 0.14 \pm 0.14 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.10 \text{ (syst)},$$

$$\alpha_2 = -1.11 \pm 0.04 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.05 \text{ (syst)},$$

$$\gamma_0 = -0.27 \pm 0.08 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.11 \text{ (syst)},$$

corresponding to the squares of the helicity amplitudes

$$|T_{++}|^2 = 0.05 \pm 0.04 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.04 \text{ (syst)},$$

$$|T_{+0}|^2 = -0.10 \pm 0.04 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.04 \text{ (syst)},$$

$$|T_{-0}|^2 = 0.51 \pm 0.03 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.04 \text{ (syst)},$$

$$|T_{--}|^2 = 0.52 \pm 0.04 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.04 \text{ (syst)}.$$  

The measured $\Lambda_b$ polarization value given above is consistent with the LHCb measurement \cite{11} and theoretical predictions of 0.10 \cite{5} and 0.20 \cite{6}. The many theoretical predictions for $\alpha_1$ include $-0.2$ to $-0.1$ from quark model techniques \cite{9, 27-30}, $-0.17$ to $-0.14$ from perturbative quantum chromodynamics calculations \cite{10}, and 0.78 from heavy-quark effective theory \cite{4, 6}. The measured value is inconsistent at the level of almost 4 standard deviations with the heavy-quark effective theory prediction, but is consistent at about the 2 standard deviation level with the other predictions. The presented measurement of $\alpha_1$ is also consistent with the measurements $0.05 \pm 0.17 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.07 \text{ (syst)}$ and $0.05 \pm 0.16 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.06 \text{ (syst)}$ by LHCb \cite{11} and ATLAS \cite{12}, respectively, and with no parity violation at the level of one standard deviation. The measurement of $\alpha_2$, compatible with $-1$, indicates that the positive-helicity states of the $\Lambda$ coming from the $\Lambda_b$ decay are suppressed.

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(Spain); Swiss Funding Agencies (Switzerland); MST (Taipei); ThEPCenter, IPST, STAR, and NSTDA (Thailand); TUBITAK and TAEK (Turkey); NASU and SFFR (Ukraine); STFC (United Kingdom); DOE and NSF (USA).

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A The CMS Collaboration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
E. Belchior Batista Das Chagas, W. Carvalho, J. Chinellato, E. Coelho, E.M. Da Costa, G.G. Da Silveira, D. De Jesus Damiao, S. Fonseca De Souza, L.M. Huertas Guativa, H. Malbouisson, M. Melo De Almeida, C. Mora Herrera, L. Mundim, H. Nogima, L.J. Sanchez Rosas, A. Santoro, A. Sznejder, M. Thiel, E.J. Tonelli Manganote, F. Torres Da Silva De Araujo, A. Vilela Pereira

Universidade Estadual Paulista a, Universidade Federal do ABC b, São Paulo, Brazil
S. Ahuja, C.A. Bernardes, T.R. Fernandez Perez Tomei, E.M. Gregores, P.G. Mercadante, S.F. Novaes, Sandra S. Padula, D. Romero Abad, J.C. Ruiz Vargas
Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria
A. Aleksandrov, R. Hadjiiska, P. Iaydjiev, M. Misheva, M. Rodozov, M. Shopova, G. Sultanov

University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria
A. Dimitrov, L. Litov, B. Pavlov, P. Petkov

Beihang University, Beijing, China
W. Fang\textsuperscript{5}, X. Gao\textsuperscript{5}, L. Yuan

Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing, China
M. Ahmad, J.G. Bian, G.M. Chen, H.S. Chen, M. Chen, Y. Chen, C.H. Jiang, D. Leggat, H. Liao, Z. Liu, F. Romeo, S.M. Shaheen, A. Spiezia, J. Tao, C. Wang, Z. Wang, E. Yazgan, T. Yu, H. Zhang, J. Zhao

State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, Peking University, Beijing, China
Y. Ban, G. Chen, J. Li, Q. Li, S. Liu, Y. Mao, S.J. Qian, D. Wang, Z. Xu, F. Zhang\textsuperscript{5}

Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
Y. Wang

Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia
C. Avila, A. Cabrera, L.F. Chaparro Sierra, C. Florez, C.F. González Hernández, J.D. Ruiz Alvarez, M.A. Segura Delgado

University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, Split, Croatia
B. Courbon, N. Godinovic, D. Lelas, I. Puljak, P.M. Ribeiro Cipriano, T. Sculac

University of Split, Faculty of Science, Split, Croatia
Z. Antunovic, M. Kovac

Institute Rudjer Boskovic, Zagreb, Croatia
V. Brigljevic, D. Ferencek, K. Kadija, B. Mesic, A. Starodumov\textsuperscript{6}, T. Susa

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

Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
M. Finger\textsuperscript{7}, M. Finger Jr.\textsuperscript{7}

Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Quito, Ecuador
E. Carrera Jarrin

Academy of Scientific Research and Technology of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Egyptian Network of High Energy Physics, Cairo, Egypt
A. Mohamed\textsuperscript{8}, Y. Mohammed\textsuperscript{9}, E. Salama\textsuperscript{10,11}

National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia
S. Bhowmik, R.K. Dewanjee, M. Kadastik, L. Perrini, M. Raidal, A. Tiko, C. Veelken

Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland
P. Eerola, H. Kirschenmann, J. Pekkanen, M. Voutilainen
Helsinki Institute of Physics, Helsinki, Finland
J. Havukainen, J.K. Heikkilä, T. Järvinen, V. Karimäki, R. Kinnunen, T. Lampén, K. Lassila-Perini, S. Laurila, S. Lehti, T. Lindén, P. Luukka, T. Mäenpää, H. Siikonen, E. Tuominen, J. Tuominen

Lappeenranta University of Technology, Lappeenranta, Finland
T. Tuuva

IRFU, CEA, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France
M. Besancon, F. Coudenc, M. Dejardin, D. Denegri, J.L. Faure, F. Ferri, S. Ganjour, S. Ghosh, A. Givernaud, P. Gras, G. Hamel de Monchenault, P. Jarry, I. Kucher, C. Leloup, E. Locci, M. Machet, J. Malcles, G. Negro, J. Rander, A. Rosowsky, M.O. Sahin, M. Titov

Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, Ecole polytechnique, CNRS/IN2P3, Université Paris-Saclay, Palaiseau, France
A. Abdulsalam, C. Amendola, I. Antropov, S. Baffioni, F. Beaudette, P. Busson, L. Cadamuro, C. Charlot, R. Granier de Cassagnac, M. Jo, S. Lisniak, A. Lobanov, J. Martin Blanco, M. Nguyen, C. Ochando, G. Ortona, P. Paganini, P. Pigard, R. Salerno, J.B. Sauvan, Y. Sirois, A.G. Stahl, T. Strebler, Y. Yilmaz, A. Zabi, A. Zghiche

Université de Strasbourg, CNRS, IPHC UMR 7178, F-67000 Strasbourg, France
J.-L. Agram, J. Andrea, D. Bloch, J.-M. Brom, M. Buttignol, E.C. Chabert, N. Chanon, C. Collard, E. Conte, X. Coubez, F. Drouhin, J.-C. Fontaine, D. Gelé, U. Goerlach, M. Jansová, P. Juillot, A.-C. Le Bihan, N. Tonon, P. Van Hove

Centre de Calcul de l’Institut National de Physique Nucleaire et de Physique des Particules, CNRS/IN2P3, Villeurbanne, France
S. Gadrat

Université de Lyon, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, CNRS-IN2P3, Institut de Physique Nucléaire de Lyon, Villeurbanne, France
S. Beauceron, C. Bernet, G. Boudoul, R. Chierici, D. Contardo, P. Depasse, H. El Mamouni, J. Fay, L. Finco, S. Gascon, M. Gouzevitch, G. Grenier, B. Ille, F. Lagarde, I.B. Laktineh, M. Lethuillier, L. Mirabito, A.L. Pequegnot, S. Perries, A. Popov, V. Sordini, M. Vander Donckt, S. Viret, S. Zhang

Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi, Georgia
T. Torashvili

Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
Z. Tsalaladze

RWTH Aachen University, I. Physikalisches Institut, Aachen, Germany
C. Autermann, L. Feld, M.K. Kiesel, K. Klein, M. Lipinski, M. Preuten, C. Schomakers, J. Schulz, M. Teroerde, B. Wittmer, V. Zhukov

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

RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut B, Aachen, Germany
G. Flügge, B. Kargoll, T. Kress, A. Künsken, T. Müller, A. Nehrkorn, A. Nowack, C. Pistone, O. Pooth, A. Stahl
Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany
M. Aldaya Martin, T. Arndt, C. Asawatangtrakuldee, K. Beernaert, O. Behnke, U. Behrens, A. Bermúdez Martínez, A.A. Bin Anuar, K. Borras, V. Botta, A. Campbell, P. Connor, C. Contreras-Campana, F. Costanza, C. Diez Pardos, G. Eckerlin, D. Eckstein, T. Eichhorn, E. Eren, E. Gallo, J. Garay García, A. Geiser, J.M. Grados Luyando, A. Grohsjean, P. Gunnellini, M. Guthoff, A. Harb, J. Hauk, M. Hempel, H. Jung, M. Kasemann, J. Keaveney, C. Kleinwort, I. Korol, D. Krücker, W. Lange, A. Lelek, T. Lenz, J. Leonard, K. Lipka, W. Lohmann, R. Mankel, I.-A. Melzer-Pellmann, A.B. Meyer, M. Missiroli, G. Mittag, J. Mnich, A. Mussgiller, E. Ntomari, D. Pitzl, A. Raspereza, M. Savitskyi, P. Saxena, R. Shevchenko, N. Stefaniuk, G.P. Van Onsem, R. Walsh, Y. Wen, K. Wichmann, C. Wissling, O. Zenaiev

University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany
R. Aggleton, S. Bein, V. Blobel, M. Centis Vignali, T. Dreyer, E. Garutti, D. Gonzalez, J. Haller, A. Hinzmann, M. Hoffmann, A. Karavdina, R. Klanner, R. Kogler, N. Kovalchuk, S. Kurz, T. Lapsien, D. Marconi, M. Meyer, M. Niedziela, D. Nowatschin, F. Pantaleo, T. Peiffer, A. Perieanu, C. Scharf, P. Schleper, A. Schmidt, S. Schumann, J. Schwandt, J. Sonneveld, H. Stadie, G. Steinbrück, F.M. Stober, M. Stöver, H. Tholen, D. Troendle, E. Usai, A. Vanhoefer, B. Vormwald

Institut für Experimentelle Teilchenphysik, Karlsruhe, Germany
M. Akbiyik, C. Barth, M. Baselga, S. Baur, E. Butz, R. Caspart, T. Chwalek, F. Colombo, W. De Boer, A. Dierlamm, N. Faltermann, B. Freund, R. Friese, M. Giffels, M.A. Harrendorf, F. Hartmann, S.M. Heindl, U. Husemann, F. Kassel, S. Kudella, H. Mildner, M.U. Mozer, Th. Müller, M. Plagge, G. Quast, K. Rabbertz, M. Schröder, I. Shvetsov, G. Sieber, H.J. Simonis, R. Ulrich, S. Wayand, M. Weber, T. Weiler, S. Williamson, C. Wöhrmann, R. Wolf

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, India
S. Choudhury, J.R. Komaragiri
INFN Sezione di Firenze \textsuperscript{a}, Università di Firenze \textsuperscript{b}, Firenze, Italy
G. Barbagli\textsuperscript{a}, K. Chatterjee\textsuperscript{a,b}, V. Ciulli\textsuperscript{a,b}, C. Civinini\textsuperscript{a}, R. D’Alessandro\textsuperscript{a,b}, E. Focardi\textsuperscript{a,b}, P. Lenzi\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Meschini\textsuperscript{a}, S. Paoletti\textsuperscript{a}, L. Russo\textsuperscript{a,30}, G. Sguazzoni\textsuperscript{a}, D. Strom\textsuperscript{a}, L. Viliani\textsuperscript{a}

INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy
L. Benussi, S. Bianco, F. Fabbri, D. Piccolo, F. Primavera\textsuperscript{16}

INFN Sezione di Genova \textsuperscript{a}, Università di Genova \textsuperscript{b}, Genova, Italy
V. Calvelli\textsuperscript{a,b}, F. Ferro\textsuperscript{a}, F. Ravera\textsuperscript{a,b}, E. Robutti\textsuperscript{b}, S. Tosi\textsuperscript{a,b}

INFN Sezione di Milano-Bicocca \textsuperscript{a}, Università di Milano-Bicocca \textsuperscript{b}, Milano, Italy
A. Benaglia\textsuperscript{a}, A. Beschi\textsuperscript{b}, L. Brianza\textsuperscript{a,b}, F. Brivio\textsuperscript{a,b}, V. Ciriolo\textsuperscript{a,b,16}, M.E. Dinardo\textsuperscript{a,b}, S. Fiorendi\textsuperscript{a,b}, S. Gennai\textsuperscript{a}, A. Ghezzi\textsuperscript{a,b}, P. Govoni\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Malberti\textsuperscript{a,b}, S. Malvezzi\textsuperscript{a}, R.A. Manzoni\textsuperscript{a,b}, D. Menasce\textsuperscript{a}, L. Moroni\textsuperscript{a}, M. Paganoni\textsuperscript{a,b}, K. Pauwels\textsuperscript{a,b}, D. Pedrini\textsuperscript{a}, S. Pigazzini\textsuperscript{a,b,31}, S. Ragazzi\textsuperscript{b}, T. Tabarelli de Fatis\textsuperscript{a,b}

INFN Sezione di Napoli \textsuperscript{a}, Università di Napoli ‘Federico II’ \textsuperscript{b}, Napoli, Italy, Università della Basilicata \textsuperscript{c}, Potenza, Italy, Università G. Marconi \textsuperscript{d}, Roma, Italy
S. Buontempo\textsuperscript{a}, N. Cavallo\textsuperscript{a,c}, S. Di Guida\textsuperscript{a,d,16}, F. Fabozzi\textsuperscript{a,c}, F. Fienga\textsuperscript{a,b}, A.O.M. Iorio\textsuperscript{a,b}, W.A. Khan\textsuperscript{a}, L. Lista\textsuperscript{a}, S. Meola\textsuperscript{a,d,16}, P. Paolucci\textsuperscript{a,16}, C. Sciacca\textsuperscript{a,b}, F. Thyssen\textsuperscript{a}

INFN Sezione di Padova \textsuperscript{a}, Università di Padova \textsuperscript{b}, Padova, Italy, Università di Trento \textsuperscript{c}, Trento, Italy
P. Azzi\textsuperscript{a}, N. Bacchetta\textsuperscript{a}, L. Benato\textsuperscript{a,b}, D. Bisello\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Boletti\textsuperscript{a,b}, R. Carlini\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Carvalho Antunes De Oliveira\textsuperscript{a,b}, P. Checchia\textsuperscript{a}, M. Dall’Osso\textsuperscript{a,b}, P. De Castro Manzano\textsuperscript{a}, T. Dorigo\textsuperscript{a}, U. Dosselli\textsuperscript{a}, F. Fanzago\textsuperscript{a}, F. Gasparinini\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Gozzelino\textsuperscript{a}, S. Lacaprara\textsuperscript{a}, P. Lujan, M. Margoni\textsuperscript{a,b}, N. Pozzobon\textsuperscript{a,b}, P. Ronchese\textsuperscript{a,b}, R. Rossini\textsuperscript{a,b}, F. Simonetto\textsuperscript{a,b}, E. Torassa\textsuperscript{a}, M. Zanetti\textsuperscript{a,b}, P. Zotto\textsuperscript{a,b}, G. Zumerle\textsuperscript{a,b}

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

INFN Sezione di Perugia \textsuperscript{a}, Università di Perugia \textsuperscript{b}, Perugia, Italy
L. Alunni Solestizi\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Biasini\textsuperscript{a,b}, G.M. Bilei\textsuperscript{a}, C. Cecchi\textsuperscript{a,b}, D. Ciangottini\textsuperscript{a,b}, L. Fanò\textsuperscript{a,b}, P. Lariccia\textsuperscript{a,b}, R. Leonardo\textsuperscript{a,b}, E. Manoni\textsuperscript{a}, G. Mantovani\textsuperscript{a,b}, V. Marian\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Menichelli\textsuperscript{a}, A. Rossi\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Santocchia\textsuperscript{a,b}, D. Spiga\textsuperscript{a}

INFN Sezione di Pisa \textsuperscript{a}, Università di Pisa \textsuperscript{b}, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa \textsuperscript{c}, Pisa, Italy
K. Androsov\textsuperscript{a}, P. Azzurri\textsuperscript{a,16}, G. Bagliesi\textsuperscript{a}, T. Boccali\textsuperscript{a}, L. Borrello, R. Castaldi\textsuperscript{a}, M.A. Ciocci\textsuperscript{a,b}, R. Dell’Orso\textsuperscript{a}, G. Fedi\textsuperscript{a}, L. Giannini\textsuperscript{a,c}, A. Giassi\textsuperscript{a}, M.T. Grippo\textsuperscript{a,30}, F. Ligabue\textsuperscript{a,c}, T. Lomtadze\textsuperscript{a}, E. Manca\textsuperscript{a,c}, G. Mandorli\textsuperscript{a,c}, A. Messineo\textsuperscript{a,b}, F. Palla\textsuperscript{a}, A. Rizzi\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Savoy-Navarro\textsuperscript{a,32}, P. Spagnolo\textsuperscript{a}, R. Tenchini\textsuperscript{a}, G. Tonelli\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Ventura\textsuperscript{a}, P.G. Verdini\textsuperscript{a}

INFN Sezione di Roma \textsuperscript{a}, Sapienza Università di Roma \textsuperscript{b}, Rome, Italy
L. Barone\textsuperscript{a,b}, F. Cavallari\textsuperscript{a}, M. Cipriani\textsuperscript{a,b}, N. Daci\textsuperscript{a}, D. Del Re\textsuperscript{a,b}, E. Di Marco\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Diemoz\textsuperscript{a}, S. Gelli\textsuperscript{a,b}, E. Longo\textsuperscript{a,b}, F. Margaroli\textsuperscript{a,b}, B. Marzocchi\textsuperscript{a,b}, P. Meridiani\textsuperscript{a}, G. Organtini\textsuperscript{a,b}, R. Paramatti\textsuperscript{a,b}, F. Preaito\textsuperscript{a,b}, S. Rahatlou\textsuperscript{a,b}, C. Riccardi\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Venturi\textsuperscript{a}, F. Thyssen\textsuperscript{b}

INFN Sezione di Torino \textsuperscript{a}, Università di Torino \textsuperscript{b}, Torino, Italy, Università del Piemonte Orientale \textsuperscript{c}, Novara, Italy
N. Amapane\textsuperscript{a,b}, R. Arcidiacono\textsuperscript{a,c}, S. Argiro\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Arneodo\textsuperscript{a,c}, N. Bartosik\textsuperscript{a}, R. Bellan\textsuperscript{a,b}, C. Biino\textsuperscript{a}, N. Cartiglia\textsuperscript{a}, F. Cenn\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Costa\textsuperscript{a,b}, R. Covarelli\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Degano\textsuperscript{a,b}, N. Demaria\textsuperscript{a}, B. Kiani\textsuperscript{a,b}, C. Mariotti\textsuperscript{a}, S. Maselli\textsuperscript{a}, E. Migliore\textsuperscript{a,b}, V. Monaco\textsuperscript{a,b}, E. Monteil\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Monteno\textsuperscript{a},
M.M. Obertino\textsuperscript{a,b}, L. Pacher\textsuperscript{a,b}, N. Pastrone\textsuperscript{a}, M. Pelliccioni\textsuperscript{a}, G.L. Pinna Angioni\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Romero\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Ruspa\textsuperscript{a,c}, R. Sacchi\textsuperscript{a,b}, K. Shchelina\textsuperscript{a,b}, V. Sola\textsuperscript{a}, A. Solano\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Staiano\textsuperscript{a}, P. Traczyk\textsuperscript{a,b}

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

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

\textbf{Kyungpook National University}

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

\textbf{Chonnam National University, Institute for Universe and Elementary Particles, Kwangju, Korea}

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

\textbf{Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea}

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

\textbf{Korea University, Seoul, Korea}

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

\textbf{Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea}

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

\textbf{University of Seoul, Seoul, Korea}

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

\textbf{Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, Korea}

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

\textbf{Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania}

V. Dudenas, A. Juodagalvis, J. Vaitkus

\textbf{National Centre for Particle Physics, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia}

I. Ahmed, Z.A. Ibrahim, M.A.B. Md Ali\textsuperscript{33}, F. Mohamad Idris\textsuperscript{34}, W.A.T. Wan Abdullah, M.N. Yusli, Z. Zolkapli

\textbf{Centro de Investigacion y de Estudios Avanzados del IPN, Mexico City, Mexico}

Reyes-Almanza, R, Ramirez-Sanchez, G., Duran-Osuna, M. C., H. Castilla-Valdez, E. De La Cruz-Burelo, I. Heredia-De La Cruz\textsuperscript{35}, Rabadan-Trejo, R. I., R. Lopez-Fernandez, J. Mejia Guisao, A. Sanchez-Hernandez

\textbf{Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico}

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

\textbf{Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, Puebla, Mexico}

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

\textbf{Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, San Luis Potosí, Mexico}

A. Morelos Pineda

\textbf{University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand}

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

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

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

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

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

Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia
I. Golutvin, V. Karjavin, I. Kashunin, V. Korenkov, G. Kozlov, A. Lanev, A. Malakhov, V. Matveev, V.V. Mitsyn, P. Moisenz, V. Palichik, V. Perelygin, S. Shmatov, N. Skatchkov, V. Smirnov, V. Trofimov, B.S. Yuldashev, A. Zarubin, V. Zhiltsov

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

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

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

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

National Research Nuclear University ‘Moscow Engineering Physics Institute’ (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia
R. Chistov, M. Danilov, P. Parygin, D. Philippov, S. Polikarpov, E. Tarkovskii

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

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

Novosibirsk State University (NSU), Novosibirsk, Russia
V. Blinov, D. Shtol, Y. Skovpen
State Research Center of Russian Federation, Institute for High Energy Physics of NRC "Kurchatov Institute", Protvino, Russia
I. Azhgirey, I. Bayshev, S. Bitioukov, D. Elumakhov, A. Godizov, V. Kachanov, A. Kalinin, D. Konstantinov, P. Mandrik, V. Petrov, R. Ryutin, A. Sobol, T. Troshin, N. Tyurin, A. Uzunian, A. Volkov

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

Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT), Madrid, Spain
J. Alcaraz Maestre, I. Bachiller, M. Barrio Luna, M. Cerrada, N. Colino, B. De La Cruz, A. Delgado Peris, C. Fernandez Bedoya, J.P. Fernandez Ramos, J. Flix, M.C. Fouz, O. Gonzalez Lopez, S. Goy Lopez, J.M. Hernandez, M.I. Josa, D. Moran, A. Perez-Calero Yzquierdo, J. Puerta Pelayo, I. Redondo, L. Romero, M.S. Soares, A. Triossi, A. Alvarez Fernandez

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

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

Instituto de Física de Cantabria (IFCA), CSIC-Universidad de Cantabria, Santander, Spain
I.J. Cabrillo, A. Calderon, B. Chazin Quero, E. Cururas, J. Duarte Campderros, M. Fernandez, J. Garcia-Ferrero, G. Gomez, A. Lopez Virto, J. Marco, C. Martinez Rivero, P. Martinez Ruiz del Arbol, F. Matorras, J. Piedra Gomez, T. Rodrigo, A. Ruiz-Jimeno, L. Scodellaro, N. Trevisani, I. Vila, R. Vilar Cortabitarte

CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland
D. Abbaneo, B. Akgun, E. Auffray, P. Baillon, A.H. Ball, D. Barney, J. Bendavid, M. Bianco, P. Bloch, A. Bocci, C. Botta, T. Camporesi, R. Castello, M. Cepeda, G. Cerminara, E. Chapon, Y. Chen, D. d’Entrèa, A. Dabrowski, V. Daponte, A. David, M. De Gruttola, A. De Roeck, N. Deelen, M. Dobson, T. du Pree, M. Dünser, N. Duport, A. Elliott-Peisert, P. Everaerts, F. Fallavollita, G. Franzoni, J. Fulcher, W. Funk, D. Gigi, A. Gilbert, K. Gill, F. Glege, D. Gulhan, P. Harris, J. Hegeman, V. Innocente, A. Jafari, P. Janot, K. Karacheban, J. Kieseler, V. Knünz, A. Kornmayer, M.J. Kortelainen, M. Krämer, C. Lange, P. Leccoz, C. Lourenço, M.T. Lucchini, L. Malgeri, M. Mannelli, A. Martelli, F. Meijers, J.A. Merlin, S. Mersi, E. Meschi, P. Milenovic, F. Moortgat, M. Mulders, H. Neugebauer, J. Ngadiuba, S. Orfanelli, L. Orsini, L. Pape, E. Perez, M. Peruzzi, A. Petrilli, G. Petrucciani, A. Pfeiffer, M. Pierini, D. Rabady, A. Racz, T. Reis, G. Rolandi, M. Rovere, H. Sakulin, C. Schäfer, C. Schwik, M. Seidel, M. Selvaggi, A. Sharma, P. Silva, P. Spicidas, A. Stakia, J. Steggemann, M. Stoye, M. Tosi, D. Treille, A. Tsiropou, V. Veckalns, M. Verweij, W.D. Zeuner

Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland
W. Bertl, L. Caminada, K. Deiters, W. Erdmann, R. Horisberger, Q. Ingram, H.C. Kaestli, D. Kotlinski, U. Langenegger, T. Rohe, S.A. Wiederkehr

ETH Zurich - Institute for Particle Physics and Astrophysics (IPA), Zurich, Switzerland
M. Backhaus, L. Bäni, P. Berger, L. Bianchini, B. Casalì, G. Dissertori, M. Dittmar, M. Donegà, C. Dorfer, C. Grab, C. Heidegger, D. Hits, J. Hoss, G. Kasieczka, T. Klijnsm, W. Lusterma,
B. Mangano, M. Marionneau, M.T. Meinhard, D. Meister, F. Micheli, P. Musella, F. Nessi-Tedaldi, F. Pandolfi, J. Pata, F. Pauss, G. Perrin, L. Perrozzi, M. Quittnat, M. Reichmann, D.A. Sanz Becerra, M. Schönberger, L. Shchutska, V.R. Tavolaro, K. Theofilatos, M.L. Vesterbacka Olsson, R. Wallny, D.H. Zhu

Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland
T.K. Aarrestad, C. Amsler, M.F. Canelli, A. De Cosa, R. Del Burgo, S. Donato, C. Galloni, T. Hreus, B. Kilminster, D. Pinna, G. Rauco, P. Robmann, D. Salerno, K. Schweiger, C. Seitz, Y. Takahashi, A. Zucchetta

National Central University, Chung-Li, Taiwan
V. Candelise, Y.H. Chang, K.Y. Cheng, T.H. Doan, Sh. Jain, R. Khurana, C.M. Kuo, W. Lin, A. Pozdnyakov, S.S. Yu

National Taiwan University (NTU), Taipei, Taiwan
Arun Kumar, P. Chang, Y. Chao, K.F. Chen, P.H. Chen, F. Fiori, W.-S. Hou, Y. Hsiung, Y.F. Liu, R.-S. Lu, E. Paganis, A. Psallidas, A. Steen, J.F. Tsai

Chulalongkorn University, Faculty of Science, Department of Physics, Bangkok, Thailand
B. Asavapibhop, K. Kovitanggoon, G. Singh, N. Srimanobhas

Çukurova University, Physics Department, Science and Art Faculty, Adana, Turkey
M.N. Bakirci, A. Bat, F. Boran, S. Damarsekin, Z.S. Demiroglu, C. Dozen, E. Eskut, S. Girgis, G. Gokbulut, Y. Guler, I. Hos, E.E. Kangal, O. Kara, U. Kiminsu, G. Onengut, K. Ozdemir, A. Polatoz, B. Tali, U.G. Tok, H. Topakli, S. Turkcapar, I.S. Zorbakir, C. Zorbilmez

Middle East Technical University, Physics Department, Ankara, Turkey
G. Karapinar, K. Ocalan, M. Yalvac, M. Zeyrek

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey
E. Gülmez, M. Kaya, O. Kaya, S. Tekten, E.A. Yetkin

Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey
M.N. Agaras, S. Atay, A. Cakir, K. Cankocak, Y. Komurcu

Institute for Scintillation Materials of National Academy of Science of Ukraine, Kharkov, Ukraine
B. Grynyov

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

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

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

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

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

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

Catholic University of America, Washington DC, USA
R. Bartek, A. Domínguez

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

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

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

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

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

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

University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, USA
J.G. Branson, S. Cittolin, M. Derdzinski, R. Gerosa, D. Gilbert, B. Hashemi, A. Holzner, D. Klein, G. Kole, V. Krutelyov, J. Letts, M. Masciovecchio, D. Olivito, S. Padhi, M. Pieri, M. Sani, V. Sharma, S. Simon, M. Tadel, A. Vartak, S. Wasserbaech, J. Wood, F. Würthwein, A. Yagil, G. Zevi Della Porta

University of California, Santa Barbara - Department of Physics, Santa Barbara, USA
N. Amin, R. Bhandari, J. Bradmiller-Feld, C. Campagnari, A. Dishaw, V. Dutta, M. Franco Sevilla, L. Gouskos, R. Heller, J. Incandela, A. Ovcharova, H. Qu, J. Richman, D. Stuart, I. Suarez, J. Yoo

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA
D. Anderson, A. Bornheim, J. Bunn, J.M. Lawhorn, H.B. Newman, T. Q. Nguyen, C. Pena, M. Spiropulu, J.R. Vlimant, R. Wilkinson, S. Xie, Z. Zhang, R.Y. Zhu
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA
M.B. Andrews, T. Ferguson, T. Mudholkar, M. Paulini, J. Russ, M. Sun, H. Vogel, I. Vorobiev, M. Weinberg

University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, USA
J.P. Cumalat, W.T. Ford, F. Jensen, A. Johnson, M. Krohn, S. Leontsinis, T. Mulholland, K. Stenson, K.A. Ulmer, S.R. Wagner

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

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

University of Florida, Gainesville, USA
D. Acosta, P. Avery, P. Bortignon, D. Bourilkov, A. Brinkerhoff, A. Carnes, M. Carver, D. Curry, R.D. Field, I.K. Furic, S.V. Gleyzer, B.M. Joshi, J. Konigsberg, A. Korytov, K. Kotov, P. Ma, K. Matchev, H. Mei, G. Mitselmakher, K. Shi, D. Sperka, N. Terentyev, L. Thomas, J. Wang, S. Wang, J. Yelton

Florida International University, Miami, USA
Y.R. Joshi, S. Linn, P. Markowitz, J.L. Rodriguez

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

Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, USA
M.M. Baarmand, V. Bhatopkar, S. Colafranceschi, M. Hofmann, D. Noonan, T. Roy, F. Yumiceva

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

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA
B. Bilki, W. Clarida, K. Dilisiz, S. Durgut, R.P. Gandravula, M. Haytmyradov, V. Khristenko, J.-P. Merlo, H. Mermerkaya, A. Mestvirishvili, A. Moeller, J. Nachtman, H. Ogul, Y. Onel, F. Ozok, A. Penzo, C. Snyder, E. Tiras, J. Wetzel, K. Yi
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA
B. Blumenfeld, A. Cocoros, N. Eminizer, D. Fehling, L. Feng, A.V. Gritsan, P. Maksimovic, J. Roskes, U. Sarica, M. Swartz, M. Xiao, C. You

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

Kansas State University, Manhattan, USA
A. Ivanov, K. Kaadze, Y. Maravin, A. Mohammadi, L.K. Saini, N. Skhirtladze

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, USA
F. Rebassoo, D. Wright

University of Maryland, College Park, USA
A. Baden, O. Baron, A. Belloni, S.C. Eno, Y. Feng, C. Ferraioli, N.J. Hadley, S. Jabeen, G.Y. Jeng, R.G. Kellogg, J. Kunkle, A.C. Mignerey, F. Ricci-Tam, Y.H. Shin, A. Skuja, S.C. Tonwar

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

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

University of Mississippi, Oxford, USA
J.G. Acosta, S. Oliveros

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, USA
E. Avdeeva, K. Bloom, D.R. Claeys, C. Fangmeier, F. Golf, R. Gonzalez Suarez, R. Kamalieddin, I. Kravchenko, J. Monroy, J.E. Siado, G.R. Snow, B. Stieger

State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, USA
J. Dolen, A. Godshalk, C. Harrington, I. Iashvili, D. Nguyen, A. Parker, S. Rappoccio, B. Roozbahani

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

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

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, USA
R. Bucci, N. Dev, M. Hildreth, K. Hurtado Anampa, C. Jessop, D.J. Karmgard, N. Kellams, K. Lannon, W. Li, N. Loukas, N. Marinelli, F. Meng, C. Mueller, Y. Musienko, M. Planer, A. Reinsvold, R. Ruchti, P. Siddireddy, G. Smith, S. Taroni, M. Wayne, A. Wightman, M. Wolf, A. Woodard
The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA
J. Alimena, L. Antonelli, B. Bylsma, L.S. Durkin, S. Flowers, B. Francis, A. Hart, C. Hill, W. Ji, T.Y. Ling, B. Liu, W. Luo, B.L. Winer, H.W. Wulsin

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

University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, USA
S. Malik, S. Norberg

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

Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, USA
T. Cheng, N. Parashar, J. Stupak

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

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

The Rockefeller University, New York, USA
R. Ciesielski, K. Goulianos, C. Mesropian

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

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

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

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

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

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA
M.W. Arenton, P. Barria, B. Cox, R. Hirosky, M. Joyce, A. Ledovskoy, H. Li, C. Neu, T. Sinthuprasith, Y. Wang, E. Wolfe, F. Xia
Wayne State University, Detroit, USA  
R. Harr, P.E. Karchin, N. Poudyal, J. Sturdy, P. Thapa, S. Zaleski

University of Wisconsin - Madison, Madison, WI, USA  
M. Brodski, J. Buchanan, C. Caillol, D. Carlsmith, S. Dasu, L. Dodd, S. Duric, B. Gomber, M. Grothe, M. Herndon, A. Hervé, U. Hussain, P. Klubbers, A. Lanaro, A. Levine, K. Long, R. Loveless, T. Ruggles, A. Savin, N. Smith, W.H. Smith, D. Taylor, N. Woods

†: Deceased
1: Also at Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria
2: Also at IRFU, CEA, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France
3: Also at Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, Brazil
4: Also at Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil
5: Also at Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium
6: Also at Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia
7: Also at Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia
8: Also at Zewail City of Science and Technology, Zewail, Egypt
9: Now at Fayoum University, El-Fayoum, Egypt
10: Also at British University in Egypt, Cairo, Egypt
11: Now at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt
12: Also at Department of Physics, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
13: Also at Université de Haute Alsace, Mulhouse, France
14: Also at Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
15: Also at Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
16: Also at CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland
17: Also at RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut A, Aachen, Germany
18: Also at University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany
19: Also at Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus, Germany
20: Also at MTA-ELTE Lendület CMS Particle and Nuclear Physics Group, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary
21: Also at Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary
22: Also at Institute of Physics, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary
23: Also at Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar, India
24: Also at Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, India
25: Also at University of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India
26: Also at University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka
27: Also at Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran
28: Also at Yazd University, Yazd, Iran
29: Also at Plasma Physics Research Center, Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran
30: Also at Università degli Studi di Siena, Siena, Italy
31: Also at INFN Sezione di Milano-Bicocca; Università di Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy
32: Also at Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA
33: Also at International Islamic University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
34: Also at Malaysian Nuclear Agency, MOSTI, Kajang, Malaysia
35: Also at Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Mexico city, Mexico
36: Also at Warsaw University of Technology, Institute of Electronic Systems, Warsaw, Poland
37: Also at Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia
38: Now at National Research Nuclear University ‘Moscow Engineering Physics
Institute’ (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia
39: Also at Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
40: Also at St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University, St. Petersburg, Russia
41: Also at University of Florida, Gainesville, USA
42: Also at P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia
43: Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA
44: Also at Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, Novosibirsk, Russia
45: Also at Faculty of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
46: Also at University of Belgrade, Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia
47: Also at Scuola Normale e Sezione dell’INFN, Pisa, Italy
48: Also at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece
49: Also at Riga Technical University, Riga, Latvia
50: Also at Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland
51: Also at Stefan Meyer Institute for Subatomic Physics (SMI), Vienna, Austria
52: Also at Gaziosmanpasa University, Tokat, Turkey
53: Also at Istanbul Aydin University, Istanbul, Turkey
54: Also at Mersin University, Mersin, Turkey
55: Also at Cag University, Mersin, Turkey
56: Also at Piri Reis University, Istanbul, Turkey
57: Also at Adiyaman University, Adiyaman, Turkey
58: Also at Izmir Institute of Technology, Izmir, Turkey
59: Also at Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya, Turkey
60: Also at Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey
61: Also at Kafkas University, Kars, Turkey
62: Also at Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey
63: Also at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
64: Also at School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom
65: Also at Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, La Laguna, Spain
66: Also at Utah Valley University, Orem, USA
67: Also at Beykent University, Istanbul, Turkey
68: Also at Bingol University, Bingol, Turkey
69: Also at Erzincan University, Erzincan, Turkey
70: Also at Sinop University, Sinop, Turkey
71: Also at Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey
72: Also at Texas A&M University at Qatar, Doha, Qatar
73: Also at Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea