Studies of charm and beauty hadron long-range correlations in pp and pPb collisions at LHC energies

The CMS Collaboration*
CERN, Geneva, Switzerland

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ABSTRACT

Measurements of the second Fourier harmonic coefficient ($v_2$) of the azimuthal distributions of prompt and nonprompt $D^0$ mesons produced in pp and pPb collisions are presented. Nonprompt $D^0$ mesons come from beauty hadron decays. The data samples are collected by the CMS experiment at nucleon-nucleon center-of-mass energies of 13 and 8.16 TeV, respectively. In high multiplicity pp collisions, $v_2$ signals for prompt charm hadrons are reported for the first time, and are found to be comparable to those for light-flavor hadron species over a transverse momentum ($p_T$) range of 2–6 GeV. Compared at similar event multiplicities, the prompt $D^0$ meson $v_2$ values in pp and pPb collisions are similar in magnitude. The $v_2$ values for open beauty hadrons are extracted for the first time via nonprompt $D^0$ mesons in pPb collisions. For $p_T$ in the range of 2–5 GeV, the results suggest that $v_2$ for nonprompt $D^0$ mesons is smaller than that for prompt $D^0$ mesons. These new measurements indicate a positive charm hadron $v_2$ in pp collisions and suggest a mass dependence in $v_2$ between charm and beauty hadrons in the pPb system. These results provide insights into the origin of heavy-flavor quark collectivity in small systems. © 2020 The Author(s). Published by Elsevier B.V. This is an open access article under the CC BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). Funded by SCOAP3.

1. Introduction

Strong collectivity in high-energy nucleus-nucleus (AA) collisions at the BNL RHIC [1–4] and at the CERN LHC [5,6], has indicated the formation of a hot, strongly interacting quark gluon plasma (QGP), which exhibits nearly ideal hydrodynamic behavior [7–9]. The collective phenomena itself in long-range (large pseudorapidity gap) particle correlations [10–15]. Although not originally expected, similar long-range collective azimuthal correlations are also being observed in small colliding systems with high final-state particle multiplicity, such as proton-proton (pp) [16–20], proton-nucleus (pA) [21–31], and lighter nucleus-nucleus systems [31–34]. This observation raised the question of whether a fluid-like QGP medium with a size significantly smaller than in AA collisions is created in these other systems [35–37]. At the same time, there is no observation of long-range correlations in $e^+e^-$ and ep collisions, which are even smaller systems compared to pp collisions [38,39]. In the context of hydrodynamic models, the observed azimuthal correlation structure of emitted particles is typically characterized by its Fourier components [40]. The second and third Fourier anisotropy coefficients are known as elliptic ($v_2$) and triangular ($v_3$) flow, which most directly reflect the QGP medium response to the initial geometry and its fluctuations, respectively [41–44]. The experimental measurements in the small systems are consistent with the dominance of strong final-state interactions [35,37,45–47], such as a hydrodynamic expansion of a tiny QGP droplet [35,37]. Alternative scenarios based on gluon saturation in the initial state can also capture the main features of the correlation data, and are conjectured to play a dominant role as the event multiplicity decreases [35,36].

Heavy-flavor quarks (charm and bottom) are produced via hard scatterings in the very early stages of the high energy collisions. These quarks are available to probe both initial- and final-state effects of the collision dynamics [48,49]. Strong elliptic flow signals of electrons from the decay of heavy-flavor hadrons and open charm $D^0$ mesons are observed in both gold-gold (AuAu) collisions at RHIC [50,51] and lead-lead (PbPb) collisions at the LHC [52–54]. These findings suggest that charm quarks develop significant collective behavior via their strong interactions with the bulk of the QGP medium. Measurements of elliptic flow of hidden-charm $J/\psi$ mesons provide further evidence for strong rescatterings of charm quarks [55,56].

In small colliding systems, the study of heavy-flavor hadron collectivity has the potential to disentangle possible contributions from both initial- and final-state effects. In particular, heavy flavor hadrons may be more sensitive to possible initial-state gluon saturation effects. Recent observation of a significant elliptic flow signal for prompt $D^0$ [57] and prompt $J/\psi$ [58,59] mesons in pPb collisions provided the first evidence for charm quark collectivity.

* E-mail address: cms-publication-committee-chair@cern.ch.
in small systems. Surprisingly, despite the mass differences, the observed $v_2$ signal for prompt $J/\psi$ mesons in pPb collisions is found to be comparable to that of prompt $D^0$ mesons and light-flavor hadrons at a given particle transverse momentum ($p_T$). This behavior cannot be explained by the final-state effects of a QGP medium, as the contribution from recombination to $J/\psi$ production is not expected to be significant in small systems [60]. This finding may imply the existence of initial-state correlation effects [61]. Further detailed investigations are important to address many open questions for understanding the origin of heavy-flavor quark collectivity in small systems. These include the multiplicity dependence of charm quark collectivity in both pPb and pp systems and the details of collective behavior of beauty quarks.

This Letter presents the first measurement of the elliptic flow ($v_2$) for prompt $D^0$ mesons in pp collisions at center-of-mass energy $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV and for nonprompt $D^0$ mesons (from decays of beauty hadrons) in pPb collisions at nucleon-nucleon center-of-mass energy $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 8.16$ TeV, using long-range ($|\Delta n| > 1$) two-particle angular correlations. The $v_2$ harmonic coefficient is determined over the 2–8 GeV $p_T$ range for prompt $D^0$ mesons as a function of multiplicity with results for the pp and pPb collisions. The nonprompt $D^0$ meson $v_2$ values are extracted in high-multiplicity pp collisions for two transverse momentum ranges 2–5 and 5–8 GeV, and are compared to previous measurements of prompt $D^0$ mesons and light flavor hadrons.

2. Experimental apparatus and data sample

The central feature of the CMS apparatus is a superconducting solenoid of 6 m internal diameter, providing a magnetic field of 3.8 T. Within the solenoid volume, there are four primary subdetectors including a silicon pixel and strip tracker detector, a lead tungstate crystal electromagnetic calorimeter, and a brass and scintillator hadron calorimeter, each composed of a barrel and two endcap sections. Iron and quartz-fiber Cherenkov hadron forward calorimeters cover the pseudorapidity $|\eta_{lab}| > 5.2$ in laboratory frame. Muons are measured in gas-ionization detectors embedded in the steel flux-return yoke outside the solenoid. The silicon tracker measures charged particles within the range $|\eta_{lab}| < 2.5$. For charged particles with $1 < p_T < 10$ GeV and $|\eta_{lab}| < 1.4$, the track resolutions are typically 1.5% in $p_T$ and 25–90 (45–150) μm in the transverse (longitudinal) impact parameter [62]. A detailed description of the CMS detector, together with a definition of the coordinate system used and the relevant kinematic variables, can be found in Ref. [63].

The event samples were collected by the CMS experiment with a two-level trigger system [64]: at level-1 events are selected by custom hardware processors while the high-level trigger uses fixed versions of the offline software. The pPb data at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 8.16$ TeV used in this analysis were collected in 2016, and correspond to an integrated luminosity of 186.0 nb$^{-1}$ [65]. The beam energies are 6.5 TeV for the protons and 2.56 TeV per nucleon for the lead nuclei. Because of the asymmetric beam conditions, particles selected in this analysis from midrapidity in the laboratory frame ($|\eta_{lab}| < 1$) correspond to rapidity in the nucleon-nucleon center-of-mass frame of $-1.46 < y_{cm} < 0.54$, with positive rapidity corresponding to the proton beam direction. The pp data at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV were collected in 2017 and 2018 with integrated luminosities of 1.27 pb$^{-1}$ and 10.22 pb$^{-1}$ during special runs with low beam intensity, resulting in an average number of concurrent pp collisions of about 1 per bunch crossing. The event reconstruction, event selections, and triggers (minimum bias and high multiplicity) are identical to those described in Refs. [19,66,67]. Similar to previous CMS correlation measurements, the pp and pPb data are analyzed for several multiplicity ($N_{\text{trk}}^{\text{offline}}$) classes, where $N_{\text{trk}}^{\text{offline}}$ is the number of offline selected tracks [19,62] with $|\eta_{lab}| < 2.4$ and $p_T > 0.4$ GeV.

3. Prompt and nonprompt $D^0$ meson reconstruction and selection

The $D^0$ (and its charge conjugate state $\bar{D}^0$) mesons are reconstructed through the hadronic decay channel $D^0 \rightarrow K^-\pi^+$ ($D^0 \rightarrow K^0\pi^+$). The invariant mass of $D^0$ candidates is required to be from 1.725–2.000 GeV to cover the world-average $D^0$ mass [68]. In order to suppress the combinatorial background and improve the momentum and mass resolution, high-purity [62] tracks reconstructed using the silicon tracker with $p_T < 0.7$ GeV, $|\eta_{lab}| < 2.4$, smaller than 10% relative uncertainty in $p_T$, and the number of valid hits $\geq 11$ are used. For each pair of selected tracks, two $D^0$ candidates are considered by assuming that one of the tracks has the pion mass while the other track has the kaon mass, and vice versa.

The $D^0$ candidates are selected using a multivariate technique that employs the boosted decision tree (BDT) algorithm in the Toolkit for Multivariate Data Analysis with ROOT [69]. The selection is optimized separately for pp and pPb collisions, and for all $p_T$ ranges, in order to maximize the statistical significance of the prompt or non-prompt $D^0$ meson signals. The Monte Carlo (MC) signal simulated samples are produced with PYTHIA 8.209 [70] tune CUETP8M1 [71] (embedded into EPOS LHC [72] for the case of pPb analysis) for both prompt and nonprompt $D^0$ events. The background samples for the multivariate training are taken from data. The training variables related to $D^0$ mesons include: the $\chi^2$ probability for $D^0$ vertex fitting; the three-dimensional distance (with and without being normalized by its uncertainty) between the primary and decay vertices; and the three-dimensional pointing angle (defined as the angle between the line segment connecting the primary and decay vertices and the momentum vector of the reconstructed particle candidates). The training variables related to the decay products are: $p_T$; pseudorapidity and the longitudinal and transverse track impact parameter significance. In the BDT training for prompt $D^0$ signals, same-sign (SS) $\pi^+K^-$ candidates are used, which contain predominantly combinatorial background. For optimizing nonprompt $D^0$ signals, both prompt $D^0$ signals and combinatorial candidates are considered as dominant background to be suppressed. For this reason, opposite-sign (OS) candidates (although including fractions $\lesssim 5%$ of nonprompt $D^0$ signals) are used for the background training sample. This approach is found to give better performance for achieving higher nonprompt $D^0$ fractions than using SS background candidates, especially at higher $p_T$.

The optimal selection criterion is the working point with the highest signal significance of prompt and nonprompt $D^0$ signals. For extracting the nonprompt $D^0$ yield, the distributions of distance of closest approach (DDA) of the $D^0$ meson momentum vector, relative to the primary vertex, are fitted using the template probability distribution functions (PDFs) for prompt and nonprompt $D^0$ signals derived from MC simulation. The residual nonprompt fraction in the BDT prompt-trained sample is found to be no more than 7%, while in the BDT nonprompt-trained sample, the optimal selection yields a nonprompt fraction up to 20%. This procedure is further outlined in Section 4.

4. Data analysis

The azimuthal anisotropies of $D^0$ mesons are extracted from their long-range ($|\Delta n| > 1$) two-particle azimuthal correlations of $D^0$ candidates with charged particles, as described in Refs. [19,26]. The two-dimensional (2D) correlation function is constructed by pairing each $D^0$ candidate with reference primary charged-particle tracks with $0.3 < p_T < 3.0$ GeV (denoted “ref” particles), and calculating...
\[
\frac{1}{N_{\text{pair}}} \frac{d^2N_{\text{pair}}}{d\Delta\eta \, d\Delta\phi} = B(0, 0) \frac{S(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi)}{B(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi)},
\]

where \( \Delta\eta \) and \( \Delta\phi \) are the differences in pseudorapidity \( \eta_{\text{lab}} \) and azimuthal angle \( \phi \) of each pair. The same-event pair distribution, \( S(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi) \), represents the yield of particle pairs normalized by the number of \( D^0 \) candidates \( (N_{\text{pair}}) \) from the same event. The mixed-event pair yield distribution, \( B(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi) \), is constructed by pairing \( D^0 \) candidates in each event with the reference primary charged-particle tracks from 10 different randomly selected events, from the same \( N_{\text{offline}} \) range, and with a primary vertex falling in the same 2 cm wide range of reconstructed \( z \) coordinates. The \( B(0, 0) \) represents the value of \( B(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi) \) at \( \Delta\eta = 0 \) and \( \Delta\phi = 0 \). It is evaluated by interpolating the four nearest bins with a bin width of 0.3 in \( \Delta\eta \) and \( \pi/16 \) in \( \Delta\phi \) bilinearly. The interpolation shows a negligible effect on the measurements. The analysis procedure is performed in each \( D^0 \) candidate \( p_T \) range by dividing it into 14 intervals of invariant mass. The correction for the acceptance and efficiency (derived from simulations using \textsc{pythia} for pp and \textsc{pythia}$+\text{epos}$ for pPb) of the \( D^0 \) meson yield is found to have a negligible effect on the measurements, and is not applied. The corresponding effects are discussed in Section 5. The \( \Delta\phi \) correlation functions averaged over \( |\Delta\eta| > 1 \) (to remove short-range correlations, such as jet fragmentation) are obtained from the projection of 2D correlation functions and fitted by the first three terms of a Fourier series:

\[
\frac{1}{N_{\text{pair}}} \frac{dN_{\text{pair}}}{d\Delta\eta \, d\Delta\phi} = \frac{N_{\text{assoc}}}{2\pi} \left[ 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{3} 2V_{n\Delta}(\cos(n\Delta\phi)) \right].
\]

Here, \( V_{n\Delta} \) are the Fourier coefficients and \( N_{\text{assoc}} \) represents the total number of pairs per \( D^0 \) candidate. The inclusion of additional Fourier terms to the fit has negligible effect. By assuming \( V_{n\Delta} \) to be the product of single-particle anisotropies [73]. \( V_{n\Delta}(D^0, ref) = v_n(D^0, ref) \), the \( v_n \) anisotropy harmonics for \( D^0 \) candidates can be extracted from the equation:

\[
v_n(D^0) = V_{n\Delta}(D^0, ref) / \sqrt{V_{n\Delta}(\text{ref}, \text{ref})}.
\]

Because of the limited statistical precision of the available data, only the elliptic anisotropy harmonic results are reported in this analysis.

To extract the \( V_{2\Delta} \) values of the inclusive \( D^0 \) meson signal, \( (V_{2\Delta}^S) \), a two-step fit to the invariant mass spectrum of \( D^0 \) candidates and their \( V_{2\Delta} \) as a function of the invariant mass, \( V_{2\Delta}^S(m_{\text{inv}}) \), is performed in each \( p_T \) interval. The mass spectrum fit function is composed of five components: the sum of two Gaussian functions with the same mean but different widths for the \( D^0 \) signal, \( S(m_{\text{inv}}) \); an additional Gaussian function to describe the invariant mass shape of \( D^0 \) candidates with an incorrect mass assignment from the exchange of the pion and kaon dominations, \( SW(m_{\text{inv}}) \); Crystal Ball (CB) functions [74] to describe processes \( D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^- \) \( S(m_{\pi^+\pi^-}) \) and \( D^0 \rightarrow K^+K^- \) \( S(m_{K^+K^-}) \); and a third-order polynomial to model the combinatorial background, \( B(m_{\text{inv}}) \). The contributions from the processes \( D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^- \) and \( D^0 \rightarrow K^+K^- \) are the results of mislabelling K as \( \pi \), or vice versa. These two components are emulated by two CB functions at two sides away from the peak region. The width and the ratio of the yields of \( SW(m_{\text{inv}}) \) and \( S(m_{\text{inv}}) \) and the CB function shape are fixed according to results obtained from simulation studies using \textsc{pythia} for pp collisions and \textsc{pythia}$+\text{epos}$ for pPb collisions.

The \( V_{2\Delta}^{S,B}(m_{\text{inv}}) \) distribution is fit with

\[
V_{2\Delta}^{S,B}(m_{\text{inv}}) = \alpha(m_{\text{inv}}) V_{2\Delta}^S + [1 - \alpha(m_{\text{inv}})] V_{2\Delta}^B(m_{\text{inv}}),
\]

where

\[
\alpha(m_{\text{inv}}) = \frac{S(m_{\text{inv}}) + SW(m_{\text{inv}}) + S(m_{K^+K^-})}{[S(m_{\pi^+\pi^-}) + SW(m_{\pi^+\pi^-}) + S(m_{K^+K^-}) + B(m_{\text{inv}})]}.
\]

Here \( V_{2\Delta}^S(m_{\text{inv}}) \) for the background \( D^0 \) candidates is modeled as a linear function of the invariant mass, and \( \alpha(m_{\text{inv}}) \) is the \( D^0 \) signal fraction. The K–\( \pi \) swapped, \( D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^- \) and \( D^0 \rightarrow K^+K^- \) components are included in the signal fraction because these candidates are from genuine \( D^0 \) mesons and should have the same \( v_2 \) value as that of the \( D^0 \) signal.

Fig. 1 shows an example of fits to the mass spectrum and \( V_{2\Delta}^{S,B}(m_{\text{inv}}) \) for the BDT prompt-trained sample in the \( p_T \) interval 4–6 GeV for the multiplicity range \( N_{\text{offline}}^{\text{pPb}} \geq 100 \) in pp collisions. Similar fits in pPb data can be found in Ref. [57], which are not repeated here.

For extracting the \( V_{2\Delta} \) values of nonprompt \( D^0 \) mesons, the measurement and fitting procedure described above are repeated in three separate DCA ranges, containing very different nonprompt \( D^0 \) fractions. A linear fit by the functional form

\[
V_{2\Delta}^{S} = f_{b \rightarrow BD} V_{2\Delta}^{BD} + (1 - f_{\text{prompt}}^{b \rightarrow D}) V_{2\Delta}^{\text{prompt}} D,
\]

to the measured \( D^0 \) \( V_{2\Delta} \) values as a function of nonprompt \( D^0 \) fraction is performed to extrapolate to the \( V_{2\Delta} \) value at a nonprompt fraction of 100%. The \( f_{\text{prompt}}^{b \rightarrow D} \) represents the nonprompt \( D^0 \) fraction. The \( v_2 \) values of nonprompt \( D^0 \) are evaluated by using Eq. (3). Fig. 2 shows an example of fits to the mass spectrum and \( V_{2\Delta}^{S,B}(m_{\text{inv}}) \) for the BDT nonprompt-trained sample for DCA < 0.006 cm and 0.008 < DCA < 0.014 cm, in the \( p_T \) interval 2–5 GeV, for the multiplicity range 185 < \( N_{\text{offline}}^{\text{pPb}} \) < 250 in pPb collisions. The resulting \( D^0 \) signal \( V_{2\Delta} \) distributions contain contributions from both prompt and nonprompt \( D^0 \) mesons.
Inclusive $D^0$ meson yields, extracted as a function of DCA, by fitting the invariant mass distribution in each DCA bin, are shown in Fig. 3 (left). A template fit to the DCA distribution is performed using template distributions of prompt and nonprompt $D^0$ mesons obtained from MC simulation to estimate the nonprompt $D^0$ fractions in each of the three DCA regions used to extract inclusive $D^0 V_{2\Delta}$, as described above. The inclusive $D^0 V_{2\Delta}$ values from the three DCA regions are then plotted as a function of the corresponding nonprompt $D^0$ fraction, shown in Fig. 3 (right), for $2 < p_T < 5$ GeV and $5 < p_T < 8$ GeV, respectively. The measurements are well described by a linear-function fit, which is shown as a red line in Fig. 3.

The residual contribution of back-to-back dijets to the measured $V_2$ results is corrected by subtracting correlations from low-multiplicity events, following an identical procedure established in Refs. [19,73]. The Fourier coefficients, $V_{n\Delta}$, extracted from Eq. (2) for $N_{\text{offline}} < 35(20)$, in pPb (pp) collisions, are subtracted from the $V_{n\Delta}$ coefficients obtained in the high-multiplicity region, with

$$V_{n\Delta}^{\text{sub}} = V_{n\Delta} - V_{n\Delta}(N_{\text{offline}} < 35)$$

$$\times \frac{N_{\text{assoc}}(N_{\text{offline}} < 35)}{N_{\text{assoc}}} \frac{Y_{\text{jet}}}{Y_{\text{jet}}(N_{\text{offline}} < 35)}. \quad (7)$$

Here, $Y_{\text{jet}}$ represents the jet yield. It is the difference between integrals of the short-range ($|\Delta\eta| < 1$) and long-range ($|\Delta\eta| > 2$) event-normalized associated yields for each multiplicity class. The ratio $Y_{\text{jet}}/Y_{\text{jet}}(N_{\text{offline}} < 35)$ is introduced to account for the enhanced jet correlations resulting from the selection of higher-multiplicity events. It is observed that the values of jet yield ratio show little dependence on $p_T$ over the full $p_T$ range. For the measurement of nonprompt $D^0$ mesons, all quantities in Eq. (7) are first extrapolated to values at a nonprompt $D^0$ fraction of 100%, following the same approach as in Fig. 3, before applying the subtraction procedure. Elliptic flow ($V_2^{\text{sub}}$), corrected for residual jet correlations, is obtained from $V_{2\Delta}^{\text{sub}}$ using Eq. (3).
5. Systematic uncertainties

Table 1 summarizes the estimate of systematic uncertainties for the \( v^\text{sub}_2 \) of prompt and nonprompt \( D^0 \) mesons in p\( p\bar{p} \) collisions as well as that of prompt \( D^0 \) mesons in pp collisions. The ranges of systematic uncertainties correspond to the \( p_T \) ranges of \( D^0 \) mesons.

Systematic uncertainties in the BDT selection of the \( D^0 \) candidates are evaluated by studying MC simulated samples. The difference between applying BDT selections and not applying those criteria is taken as the systematic uncertainty. This procedure yields the \( v^\text{sub}_2 \) uncertainties of 0.002–0.005 for prompt \( D^0 \) mesons and 0.002 for nonprompt \( D^0 \) mesons in p\( p\bar{p} \) collisions. In pp collisions, it brings an uncertainty of 0.003–0.008 on the prompt \( D^0 \) \( v^\text{sub}_2 \) measurement.

Other sources of systematic uncertainty include the background mass \( \Delta\phi \), the \( D^0 \) meson yield correction (acceptance and efficiency correction), the background \( V_{2\Delta\phi} \), and the jet subtraction method. Changing the background mass \( \Delta\phi \) to a second-order polynomial or an exponential function shows negligible systematic effects. To evaluate the uncertainties arising from the \( p_T \)-dependent \( D^0 \) meson yield correction, the \( v^\text{sub}_2 \) values are extracted from the corrected signal \( D^0 \) distributions and compared to the uncorrected \( v^\text{sub}_2 \) values as a conservative estimate. This yields an uncertainty of less than 0.013. For most bins, the uncertainties from the yield correction are less than 0.003 and are small (or negligible) compared to other sources and statistical uncertainties. The systematic uncertainties from the background \( v^\text{sub}_2 \) are evaluated by changing \( v^\text{sub}_2 \) \((m_{\text{ave}})\) to a second-order polynomial function of the invariant mass, yielding an uncertainty of less than 0.005.

To study potential trigger biases, a comparison to high-multiplicity p\( p\bar{p} \) data for a given multiplicity range that were collected using a lower threshold trigger with 100% efficiency is performed. The uncertainty from trigger bias is quoted as 0.001. Though data collected with low beam intensity are used in this analysis, there are still additional collisions besides the one of interest per bunch crossing, which are known as pileup interactions. The possible contribution by residual pileup interactions is also studied by varying the pileup selection of events in the performed analysis, from no pileup rejection at all to selecting events with only one reconstructed vertex. The variation of \( v^\text{sub}_2 \) \( p_T \) values is about 0.002–0.005 in p\( p\bar{p} \) collisions, while it is about 0.004–0.010 in pp collisions because of larger pileup.

To study the uncertainty from jet subtraction, the ratio \( Y_{\text{jet}}/Y_{\text{jet}}(N_{\text{trigger}} < 35) \) is varied by one standard deviation. It yields an uncertainty of 0.002–0.007 for prompt \( D^0 \) mesons and 0.016–0.017 for nonprompt \( D^0 \) in pp collisions. In pp collisions, it yields an uncertainty of 0.013–0.049 for prompt \( D^0 \) mesons. This effect diminishes towards high multiplicity regions because of the small \( N_{\text{trigger}} \) ratio according to Eq. (7).

For the measurement of prompt \( D^0 \) mesons, the contribution from nonprompt \( D^0 \) mesons is significantly suppressed. No explicit correction is applied and a systematic uncertainty is quoted instead. Based on the prediction for AA collisions that B mesons have a smaller \( v^\text{sub}_2 \) than light-flavor particles because of the larger mass of the b quark \([75–77]\), the nonprompt \( D^0 \) \( v^\text{sub}_2 \) values are assumed to lie between 0 and those of strange hadrons. The \( v^\text{sub}_2 \) for prompt \( D^0 \) is thus reestimated with the bounds of nonprompt \( D^0 \) and the extracted nonprompt \( D^0 \) fractions and the change in \( v^\text{sub}_2 \) signal is found to be smaller than 0.008. For the measurement of nonprompt \( D^0 \) mesons, a major systematic uncertainty comes from the determination of nonprompt \( D^0 \) fraction in different DCA regions. The DCA template distributions of prompt and nonprompt \( D^0 \) mesons from MC simulation are smeared via scaling the width of these distributions. The variation of DCA width is 2–8%, based on the best \( \chi^2 \) fit to data. The resulting variation in the extracted nonprompt \( D^0 \) \( v^\text{sub}_2 \) is quoted as a systematic uncertainty of 0.007.

All sources of systematic uncertainties are added in quadrature to obtain the total systematic uncertainty. The total systematic uncertainties for prompt and nonprompt \( D^0 \) mesons in p\( p\bar{p} \) collisions yield 0.005–0.018 and 0.016–0.017, respectively. For prompt \( D^0 \) mesons in pp collisions, the total systematic uncertainties are quoted as 0.013–0.052.

6. Results

The \( v^\text{sub}_2 \) results of prompt \( D^0 \) mesons in pp collisions at \( \sqrt{s} = 13 \) TeV, are presented in Fig. 4 as a function of \( p_T \) for \( |y_{\text{sub}}| < 1 \), with \( N_{\text{trigger}} \geq 100 \). Published data for charged particles, \( K^0_S \) mesons and \( \Lambda/\bar{\Lambda} \) are also shown for comparison \([19]\). The vertical bars correspond to the statistical uncertainties, while the shaded areas denote the systematic uncertainties. The horizontal bars represent the width of the \( p_T \) bins.
ing inclusive charged particles (dominated by pions), $K_L^0$ mesons and $\Lambda$ baryons are also shown for comparison [19]. The positive $v_2$ signal ($0.061 \pm 0.018^{(\text{stat})} \pm 0.013^{(\text{syst})}$) over a $p_T$ range of $\sim 2-4$ GeV for prompt charm hadrons provides indications of the collectivity of charm quarks in pp collisions, with a declining trend toward higher $p_T$. The $v_2$ magnitude for prompt $D^0$ mesons is found to be compatible with light-flavor hadron species, though slightly smaller by about one standard deviation. The results suggest that collectivity is being developed for charm hadrons in pp collisions, comparable (or slightly weaker) than that for light-flavor hadrons. This finding is similar to the observation made in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 8.16$ TeV over a similar $p_T$ range at higher multiplicities $185 \leq N_{\text{trk}}^{\text{offline}} < 250$ [57].

To further investigate possible system size dependence of collectivity for charm hadrons in small colliding systems, $v_2$ for prompt $D^0$ mesons in pp and pPb collisions are both measured in different multiplicity classes. The prompt $D^0$ $v_2$ as a function of event multiplicity for three different $p_T$ ranges; $2 < p_T < 4$ GeV, $4 < p_T < 6$ GeV, and $6 < p_T < 8$ GeV are presented in Fig. 5. At similar multiplicities of $N_{\text{trk}}^{\text{offline}} \sim 100$, the prompt $D^0$ $v_2$ values are found to be compatible within uncertainties in pp and pPb systems. For $2 < p_T < 4$ GeV, the measured results of prompt $D^0$ provide indications of positive $v_2$ down to $N_{\text{trk}}^{\text{offline}} \sim 50$ with a significance of more than 2.4 standard deviations in pPb collisions, while for $6 < p_T < 8$ GeV the prompt $D^0$ $v_2$ signal tends to diminish in the low multiplicity regions. No clear multiplicity dependence can be determined for pp data, because of large statistical uncertainties at low multiplicities.

The $v_2$ results for nonprompt $D^0$ mesons from beauty hadron decays are shown in Fig. 6 as a function of $p_T$ for pp collisions at 8.16 TeV with $185 \leq N_{\text{trk}}^{\text{offline}} < 250$. The extracted $v_2$ values are $-0.008 \pm 0.028^{(\text{stat})} \pm 0.016^{(\text{syst})}$ for $2 < p_T < 5$ GeV and $0.057 \pm 0.029^{(\text{stat})} \pm 0.017^{(\text{syst})}$ for $5 < p_T < 8$ GeV. At low $p_T$, the nonprompt $D^0$ $v_2$ is consistent with zero, while at high $p_T$, a hint of a positive $v_2$ value for beauty mesons is suggested but not significant within statistical and systematic uncertainties. Previously published $v_2$ data for prompt $D^0$ mesons and strange hadrons are also shown [57].

At $p_T \sim 2-5$ GeV, the nonprompt $D^0$ meson $v_2$ from beauty hadron decays is observed to be smaller than that for prompt $D^0$ mesons with a significance of 2.7 standard deviations. Based on MC simulations with EVTGEN and PYTHIA [70,79], nonprompt $D^0$ mesons carry more than 50% of B transverse momenta. The deviation of nonprompt $D^0$ meson azimuthal distributions from B mesons could reduce the extracted $v_2$ values at fixed B meson $p_T$. Taking the gluon saturation model as an example, the maximum $v_2$ value of B mesons is at $p_T \sim 6$ GeV [78], while the maximum $v_2$ value of nonprompt $D^0$ mesons is about 70% of that of B mesons at $D^0 p_T \sim 4$ GeV due to the effects discussed above. These studies suggest a flavor hierarchy of the collectivity signal that tends to diminish for the heavier beauty hadrons. This is qualitatively consistent with the scenario of $v_2$ being generated via final-state rescatterings, where heavier quarks tend to develop a weaker collective $v_2$ signal [49].

Correlations at the initial stage of the collision between partons originating from projectile protons and dense gluons in the lead nucleus are able to generate sizable elliptic flow in the color glass condensate (CGC) framework [35,61,78]. These CGC calculations of $v_2$ signals for prompt $J/\psi$ mesons, as well as prompt and nonprompt (from B meson decay) $D^0$ mesons, are compared with data in Fig. 6. The qualitative agreement between data and theory suggests that initial-state effects may play an important role in the
generation of collectivity for these particles in pPb collisions. The CGC framework also predicts a flavor hierarchy between prompt and nonprompt D^0 for p_T ~ 2–5 GeV, again consistent with the data within uncertainties.

7. Summary

The first measurements of elliptic azimuthal anisotropies for prompt D^0 mesons in proton-proton (pp) collisions at center-of-mass energy √s = 13 TeV, and for nonprompt D^0 mesons from beauty hadron decays in proton–lead (pPb) collisions at nucleon–nucleon center-of-mass energy √s_{NN} = 8.16 TeV are presented. In pp collisions with multiplicities of n_{ch} > 100, the second Fourier harmonic coefficient (v_2) of the azimuthal distributions for prompt D^0 mesons are measured over the transverse momentum (p_T) range of 2–8 GeV, with indications of positive v_2 signals over the p_T range of 2–4 GeV. These values are found to be comparable (or slightly smaller) to those of light-flavor hadron species. At similar event multiplicities, the prompt D^0 meson v_2 signals in pp and pPb collisions are found to be comparable in magnitude. The v_2 values of open beauty hadrons are extracted for the first time via non-prompt D^0 mesons in pPb collisions, with magnitudes smaller than those for prompt D^0 mesons for p_T ~ 2–5 GeV. The new measurements of charm hadron v_2 in the pp system and the indications of mass dependence of heavy-flavor hadron v_2 in the pPb system provide insights into the origin of heavy-flavor quark collectivity in small colliding systems.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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The CMS Collaboration

A.M. Sirunyan 1, A. Tumasyan

Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia

W. Adam, F. Ambrogi, T. Bergauer, M. Dragicevic, J. Erö, A. Escalante Del Valle, M. Flechl, R. Frühwirth 1, M. Jeitler 1, N. Krammer, I. Krätschmer, D. Liko, T. Madlener, I. Mikulec, N. Rad, J. Schieck 1, R. Schöfbeck, M. Spanning, W. Waltenberger, C.-E. Wulz 1, M. Zarucki

Institut für Hochenergiephysik, Wien, Austria

V. Drugakov, V. Mossolov, J. Suarez Gonzalez

Institute for Nuclear Problems, Minsk, Belarus

M.R. Darwish, E.A. De Wolf, D. Di Croce, X. Janssen, T. Kello 2, A. Lelek, M. Pieters, H. Rejeb Sfar, H. Van Haevermaet, P. Van Mechelen, S. Van Putte, N. Van Remortel

Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium

F. Blekman, E.S. Bols, S.S. Chhibra, J. D’Hondt, J. De Clercq, D. Lontkovskyi, S. Lowette, I. Marchesini, S. Moortgat, Q. Python, S. Tavernier, W. Van Doninck, P. Van Mulders

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium

D. Beghin, B. Bilin, B. Clerbaux, G. De Lentdecker, H. Delannoy, B. Dorney, L. Favart, A. Grebenyuk, A.K. Kalsi, L. Moureaux, A. Popov, N. Postiau, E. Starling, L. Thomas, C. Vander Velde, P. Vanlaer, D. Vannerom

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium
S. Gadrat
Centre de Calcul de l'Institut National de Physique Nucléaire et de Physique des Particules, CNRS/IN2P3, Villeurbanne, France

S. Beauceron, C. Bernet, G. Boudoul, C. Camen, A. Carle, N. Chanon, R. Chierici, D. Contardo, P. Depasse, H. El Mamouni, J. Fay, S. Gascon, M. Gouzevitch, B. Ille, Sa. Jain, I.B. Laktineh, H. Lattaud, A. Lesauvage, M. Lethuillier, L. Mirabito, S. Perries, V. Sordini, L. Törterotot, G. Touquet, M. Vander Donckt, S. Viret
Université de Lyon, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, CNRS-IN2P3, Institut de Physique Nucléaire de Lyon, Villeurbanne, France

G. Adamov
Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi, Georgia

Z. Tsamalaidze
Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

C. Autermann, L. Feld, K. Klein, M. Lipinski, D. Meuser, A. Pauls, M. Preuten, M.P. Rauch, J. Schulz, M. Teroerde
RWTH Aachen University, I. Physikalisches Institut, Aachen, Germany

M. Erdmann, B. Fischer, S. Ghosh, T. Hebbeker, K. Hoepfner, H. Keller, L. Mastrolorenzo, M. Merschmeyer, A. Meyer, P. Millet, G. Mocellin, S. Mondal, S. Mukherjee, D. Noll, A. Novak, T. Pook, A. Pozdnyakov, T. Quast, M. Radziej, Y. Rath, H. Reithler, J. Roemer, A. Schmidt, S.C. Schuler, A. Sharma, S. Wiedenbeck, S. Zaleski
RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut A, Aachen, Germany

G. Flügge, W. Haj Ahmad, O. Hlushchenko, T. Kress, T. Müller, A. Nowack, C. Pistone, O. Pooth, D. Roy, H. Sert, A. Stahl
RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut B, Aachen, Germany

M. Aldaya Martin, P. Asmuss, I. Babounikau, H. Bakhshiansohi, K. Beernaert, O. Behnke, A. Bermúdez Martínez, A.A. Bin Anuar, K. Borras, V. Botta, A. Campbell, A. Cardini, P. Connor, S. Consuegra Rodríguez, C. Contreras-Campana, V. Danilov, A. De Wit, M.M. Defranchis, C. Diez Pardos, D. Domínguez Damiani, G. Eckerlin, D. Eckstein, T. Eichhorn, A. Elwood, E. Eren, L.I. Estevez Banos, E. Gallo, A. Geiser, A. Grohsjean, M. Guthoff, M. Haranko, A. Harb, A. Jafari, N.Z. Jomhari, H. Jung, A. Kasem, M. Kasemann, H. Kaveh, J. Keaveney, C. Kleinwort, J. Knolle, D. Krücker, W. Lange, T. Lenz, J. Lidrych, K. Lipka, W. Lohmann, R. Mankel, I.-A. Melzer-Pellmann, A.B. Meyer, M. Meyer, M. Missiroli, J. Mnich, A. Mussigiller, V. Myronenko, D. Pérez Adán, S.K. Pfitsch, D. Pitzl, A. Raspereza, A. Saibel, M. Savitskyi, V. Scheurer, P. Schütze, C. Schwabenberger, R. Shevchenko, A. Singh, R.E. Sosa Ricardo, H. Tholen, O. Turkot, A. Vagnerini, M. Van De Klundert, R. Walsh, Y. Wen, K. Wichmann, C. Wissling, O. Zenaiev, R. Zlebcik
Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany

R. Aggleton, S. Bein, L. Benato, A. Benecke, T. Dreyer, A. Ebrahimi, F. Feindt, A. Fröhlich, C. Garbers, E. Garutti, D. Gonzalez, P. Gunnellini, J. Haller, A. Hinzmann, A. Karavdina, G. Kasieczka, R. Klanner, R. Kogler, N. Kovalchuk, S. Kurz, V. Kutzner, J. Lange, T. Lange, A. Malara, J. Multhaup, C.E.N. Niemeyer, A. Reimers, O. Rieger, P. Schleper, S. Schumann, J. Schwandt, J. Sonneveld, H. Stadie, G. Steinbrück, B. Vormwald, I. Zoi
University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

M. Akbiyik, M. Baselga, S. Baur, T. Berger, E. Butz, R. Caspart, T. Chwalek, W. De Boer, A. Dierlamm, K. El Morabit, N. Faltermann, M. Giffels, A. Gottmann, F. Hartmann, C. Heidecker, U. Husemann, M.A. Iqbal, S. Kudella, S. Maier, S. Mitra, M.U. Mozer, D. Müller, Th. Müller, M. Musich, A. Nürnberg,
G. Quast, K. Rabbertz, D. Savoiu, D. Schäfer, M. Schnepf, M. Schröder, I. Shvetsov, H.J. Simonis, R. Ulrich,
M. Wassmer, M. Weber, C. Wöhrmann, R. Wolf, S. Wozniewski
Karlsruher Institut für Technologie, Karlsruhe, Germany

G. Anagnostou, P. Asenov, G. Daskalakis, T. Geralis, A. Kyriakis, D. Loukas, G. Paspalaki, A. Stakia
Institute of Nuclear and Particle Physics (INPP), NCSR Demokritos, Aghia Paraskevi, Greece

M. Diamantopoulou, G. Karathanasis, P. Kontaxakis, A. Manousakis-katsikakis, A. Panagiotou,
I. Papavergou, N. Saoulidou, K. Theofilatos, K. Vellidis, E. Vourliotis
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece

G. Bakas, K. Kousouris, I. Papakrivopoulos, G. Tsipolitis, A. Zacharopoulou
National Technical University of Athens, Athens, Greece

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

M. Bartók21, R. Chudasama, M. Csanad, P. Major, K. Mandal, A. Mehta, G. Pasztor, O. Surányi, G.I. Veres
MTA-ELTE Lendület CMS Particle and Nuclear Physics Group, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary

G. Bencze, C. Hajdu, D. Horvath22, F. Sikler, V. Veszpremi, G. Vesztergombi†
Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary

N. Beni, S. Czellar, J. Karancsi21, J. Molnar, Z. Szillasi
Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary

P. Raics, D. Teyssier, Z.L. Trocsanyi, B. Ujvari
Institute of Physics, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary

T. Csorgo, W.J. Metzger, F. Nemes, T. Novak
Eszterhazy Karoly University, Karoly Robert Campus, Gyongyos, Hungary

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

S. Bahinipati23, C. Kar, G. Kole, P. Mal, V.K. Muraleedharan Nair Bindhu, A. Nayak24, D.K. Sahoo23, S.K. Swain
National Institute of Science Education and Research, HBNI, Bhubaneswar, India

S. Bansal, S.B. Beri, V. Bhatnagar, S. Chauhan, N. Dhingra25, R. Gupta, A. Kaur, M. Kaur, S. Kaur,
P. Kumari, M. Lohan, M. Meena, K. Sandeep, S. Sharma, J.B. Singh, A.K. Virdi
Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

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

R. Bhardwaj26, M. Bharti26, R. Bhattacharya, S. Bhattacharya, U. Bhawandeep26, D. Bhowmik, S. Dutta,
S. Ghosh, B. Gomber27, M. Maity28, K. Mondal, S. Nandan, A. Purohit, P.K. Rout, G. Saha, S. Sarkar,
M. Sharan, B. Singh26, S. Thakur26
Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, HBNI, Kolkata, India
M. Bozboa, S.C. Behera, P. Kalbhor, A. Muhammad, P.R. Pujahari, A. Sharma, A.K. Sikdar

Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Madras, India

D. Dutta, V. Jha, D.K. Mishra, P.K. Netrakanti, L.M. Pant, P. Shukla

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, India

T. Aziz, M.A. Bhat, S. Dugad, G.B. Mohanty, N. Sur, Ravindra Kumar Verma

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research-A, Mumbai, India

S. Banerjee, S. Bhattacharya, S. Chatterjee, P. Das, M. Guchait, S. Karmakar, S. Kumar, G. Majumder, K. Mazumdar, N. Sahoo, S. Sawant

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research-B, Mumbai, India

S. Dube, B. Kansal, A. Kapoor, K. Kothekar, S. Pandey, A. Rane, A. Rastogi, S. Sharma

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

S. Chenarani, S.M. Etamisi, M. Khakzad, M. Mohammadi Najafabadi, M. Naseri, F. Rezaei Hosseinabadi

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

M. Felcini, M. Grunewald

University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

G. Abbrescia a,b, R. Aly a,b,29, C. Calabria a,b, A. Colaleo a, D. Creanza a,c, L. Cristella a,b, N. De Filippis a,c, M. De Palma a,b, A. Di Florio a,b, W. Elmetenawee a,b, L. Fiore a, A. Gelmi a,b, G. Iaselli a,c, M. Ince a,b, S. Lezki a,b, G. Maggi a,c, M. Maggi a, J.A. Merlin a, G. Minciello a,b, S. My a,b, S. Nuzzo a,b, A. Pompili a,b, G. Pugliese a,c, R. Radogna a, A. Ranieri a, G. Selvaggi a,b, L. Silvestris a, F.M. Simone a,b, R. Venditti a, P. Verwilligen a

a INFN Sezione di Bari, Bari, Italy
b Università di Bari, Bari, Italy
c Politecnico di Bari, Bari, Italy

S. Albergo a,b,31, S. Costa a,b, A. Di Mattia a, R. Potenza a,b, A. Tricomi a,b,31, C. Tuve a,b

a INFN Sezione di Catania, Catania, Italy
b Università di Catania, Catania, Italy

G. Barbagni a, A. Cansese a, R. Ceccarelli a,b, V. Cialli a,b, C. Civinini a, R. D’Alessandro a,b, F. Fiore a, E. Focardi a,b, G. Latino a,b, P. Lenzi a,b, M. Lizzo a,b, M. Meschini a, S. Paoletti a, R. Seidita a,b, G. Sguazzoni a, L. Viliani a

a INFN Sezione di Firenze, Firenze, Italy
b Università di Firenze, Firenze, Italy

L. Benussi, S. Bianco, D. Piccolo

INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy

M. Bozzo a,b, F. Ferro a, R. Mulargia a,b, E. Robutti a, S. Tosi a,b

a INFN Sezione di Genova, Genova, Italy
A. Benaglia\textsuperscript{a}, A. Beschi\textsuperscript{a,b}, F. Brivio\textsuperscript{a,b}, V. Ciriolo\textsuperscript{a,b,17}, M.E. Dinardo\textsuperscript{a,b}, P. Dini\textsuperscript{a}, S. Gennai\textsuperscript{a}, A. Ghezzi\textsuperscript{a,b}, P. Govoni\textsuperscript{a,b}, L. Guzzi\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Malberti\textsuperscript{a}, S. Malvezzi\textsuperscript{a}, D. Menasce\textsuperscript{a}, F. Monti\textsuperscript{a,b}, L. Moroni\textsuperscript{a}, M. Paganoni\textsuperscript{a,b}, D. Pedrini\textsuperscript{a}, S. Ragazzi\textsuperscript{a,b}, T. Tabarelli de Fatis\textsuperscript{a,b}, D. Valsecchi\textsuperscript{a,b,17}, D. Zuolo\textsuperscript{a,b}

\textsuperscript{a} INFN Sezione di Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy
\textsuperscript{b} Università di Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy
\textsuperscript{c} Università di Genova, Genova, Italy

S. Buontempo\textsuperscript{a}, N. Cavallo\textsuperscript{a,c}, A. De Iorio\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Di Crescenzo\textsuperscript{a,b}, F. Fabozzi\textsuperscript{a,c}, F. Fienga\textsuperscript{a}, G. Galati\textsuperscript{a}, A.O.M. Iorio\textsuperscript{a,b}, L. Layer\textsuperscript{a,b}, L. Lista\textsuperscript{a,b}, S. Meola\textsuperscript{a,d,17}, P. Paolucci\textsuperscript{a,17}, B. Rossi\textsuperscript{a}, C. Sciacca\textsuperscript{a,b}, E. Voevodina\textsuperscript{a,b}

\textsuperscript{a} INFN Sezione di Napoli, Napoli, Italy
\textsuperscript{b} Università di Napoli Federico II, Napoli, Italy
\textsuperscript{c} Università della Basilicata, Potenza, Italy
\textsuperscript{d} Università G. Marconi, Roma, Italy

P. Azzi\textsuperscript{a}, N. Bacchetta\textsuperscript{a}, D. Bisello\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Boletti\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Bragagnolo\textsuperscript{a,b}, R. Carlin\textsuperscript{a,b}, P. Checchia\textsuperscript{a}, P. De Castro Manzano\textsuperscript{a}, T. Dorigo\textsuperscript{a}, U. Dosselli\textsuperscript{a}, F. Gasparini\textsuperscript{a,b}, U. Gasparini\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Gozzelino\textsuperscript{a}, S.Y. Hoh\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Margoni\textsuperscript{a,b}, A.T. Meneguzzo\textsuperscript{a,b}, J. Pazzini\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Presilla\textsuperscript{b}, P. Ronchese\textsuperscript{a,b}, R. Rossin\textsuperscript{a,b}, F. Simonetto\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Tiko\textsuperscript{a}, M. Tosi\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Zanetti\textsuperscript{a,b}, P. Zotto\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Zucchetta\textsuperscript{a,b}, G. Zumerle\textsuperscript{a,b}

\textsuperscript{a} INFN Sezione di Padova, Padova, Italy
\textsuperscript{b} Università di Padova, Padova, Italy
\textsuperscript{c} Università di Trento, Trento, Italy

A. Braghieri\textsuperscript{a}, D. Fiorina\textsuperscript{a,b}, 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}, P. Vitulo\textsuperscript{a,b}

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

M. Biasini\textsuperscript{a,b}, G.M. Biele\textsuperscript{a}, D. Ciangottini\textsuperscript{a,b}, L. Fanò\textsuperscript{a,b}, P. Lariccia\textsuperscript{a,b}, R. Leonardi\textsuperscript{a,b}, E. Manoni\textsuperscript{a}, G. Mantovani\textsuperscript{a,b}, V. Mariani\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Menichelli\textsuperscript{a}, A. Rossi\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Santocchia\textsuperscript{a,b}, D. Spiga\textsuperscript{a}

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

K. Androssov\textsuperscript{a}, P. Azzurri\textsuperscript{a}, G. Bagliesi\textsuperscript{a}, V. Bertacchi\textsuperscript{a,c}, L. Bianchini\textsuperscript{a}, T. Boccali\textsuperscript{a}, R. Castaldi\textsuperscript{a}, M.A. Ciocci\textsuperscript{a,b}, R. Dell’Orso\textsuperscript{a}, S. Donato\textsuperscript{a}, L. Giannini\textsuperscript{a,c}, A. Giassi\textsuperscript{a}, M.T. Grippa\textsuperscript{a}, F. Ligabue\textsuperscript{a,c}, E. Manca\textsuperscript{a,c}, G. Mandorla\textsuperscript{a,c}, A. Messineo\textsuperscript{a,b}, F. Palla\textsuperscript{a}, A. Rizzi\textsuperscript{a,b}, G. Rolandi\textsuperscript{a,c}, S. Roy Chowdhury\textsuperscript{a,c}, A. Scribano\textsuperscript{a}, P. Spangolo\textsuperscript{a}, R. Tenchini\textsuperscript{a}, G. Tonelli\textsuperscript{a,b}, N. Turini\textsuperscript{a}, A. Venturi\textsuperscript{a}, P.G. Verdini\textsuperscript{a}

\textsuperscript{a} INFN Sezione di Pisa, Pisa, Italy
\textsuperscript{b} Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy
\textsuperscript{c} Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Pisa, Italy

F. Cavallari\textsuperscript{a}, M. Cipriani\textsuperscript{a,b}, D. Del Re\textsuperscript{a,b}, E. Di Marco\textsuperscript{a}, M. Diemoz\textsuperscript{a}, E. Longo\textsuperscript{a,b}, P. Meridiani\textsuperscript{a}, G. Organtini\textsuperscript{a,b}, F. Pandolfi\textsuperscript{a}, R. Paramatti\textsuperscript{a,b}, C. Quaranta\textsuperscript{a,b}, S. Rahatlou\textsuperscript{a,b}, C. Rovelli\textsuperscript{a}, F. Santanastasio\textsuperscript{a,b}, L. Soffi\textsuperscript{a,b}, R. Tramontano\textsuperscript{a,b}

\textsuperscript{a} INFN Sezione di Roma, Rome, Italy
\textsuperscript{b} Sapienza Università di Roma, Rome, 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}, A. Bellora\textsuperscript{a,b}, C. Biino\textsuperscript{a}, A. Cappati\textsuperscript{a,b}, N. Cartiglia\textsuperscript{a}, S. Cometti\textsuperscript{a}, M. Costa\textsuperscript{a,b}, R. Covarelli\textsuperscript{a,b}, N. Demaria\textsuperscript{a}, J.R. González Fernández\textsuperscript{a,b}, B. Kiani\textsuperscript{a,b}, F. Legger\textsuperscript{a}, C. Mariotti\textsuperscript{a}, S. Maselli\textsuperscript{a}, E. Migliore\textsuperscript{a,b}, V. Monaco\textsuperscript{a,b}, E. Montei\textsuperscript{a,b}, M. Monteno\textsuperscript{a,b}, M.M. Obertino\textsuperscript{a,b}, G. Ortona\textsuperscript{a}, 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. Salvatico\textsuperscript{a,b}, V. Sola\textsuperscript{a}, A. Solano\textsuperscript{a,b}, D. Soldi\textsuperscript{a,b}, A. Staiano\textsuperscript{a}, D. Trocino\textsuperscript{a,b}

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

M. Chadeeva42, P. Parygin, D. Philippov, E. Popova, V. Rusinov
National Research Nuclear University 'Moscow Engineering Physics Institute' (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia

V. Andreev, M. Azarkin, I. Dremin, M. Kirakosyan, A. Terkulov
PN Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia

A. Belyaev, E. Boos, A. Demiyanov, A. Ershov, A. Gribushin, O. Kodolova, V. Korotkikh, I. Lokhtin, S. Obraztsov, S. Petrushanko, V. Savrin, A. Snigirev, I. Vardanyan
Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia

A. Barnyakov43, V. Blinov43, T. Dimova43, L. Kardapoltsev43, Y. Skovpen43
Novosibirsk State University (NSU), Novosibirsk, Russia

I. Azhgirey, I. Bayshev, S. Bitioukov, V. Kachanov, D. Konstantinov, P. Mandrik, V. Petrov, R. Ryutin, S. Slabospitkii, A. Sobol, S. Troshin, N. Tyurin, A. Uznian, A. Volkov
Institute for High Energy Physics of National Research Centre 'Kurchatov Institute', Protvino, Russia

A. Babaev, A. Iuzhakov, V. Okhotnikov
National Research Tomsk Polytechnic University, Tomsk, Russia

V. Borchsh, V. Ivanchenko, E. Tcherniaev
Tomsk State University, Tomsk, Russia

P. Adzic44, P. Cirkovic, M. Dordevic, P. Milenovic, J. Milosevic, M. Stojanovic
University of Belgrade: Faculty of Physics and VINCA Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia

M. Aguilar-Benitez, J. Alcaraz Maestre, A. Álvarez Fernández, I. Bachiller, M. Barrio Luna, Cristina F. Bedoya, J.A. Brochero Cifuentes, C.A. Carrillo Montoya, M. Cepeda, M. Cerrada, N. Colino, B. De La Cruz, A. Delgado Peris, J.P. Fernández Ramos, J. Flix, M.C. Fouz, O. Gonzalez Lopez, S. Goy Lopez, J.M. Hernandez, M.I. Josa, D. Moran, A. Navarro Tobar, A. Pérez-Calero Yzquierdo, J. Puerta Pelayo, I. Redondo, L. Romero, S. Sánchez Navas, M.S. Soares, A. Triossi, C. Willmott
Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT), Madrid, Spain

C. Albajar, J.F. de Trocóniz, R. Reyes-Almanza
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

B. Alvarez Gonzalez, J. Cuevas, C. Erice, J. Fernandez Menendez, S. Folgueras, I. Gonzalez Caballero, E. Palencia Cortezon, C. Ramón Álvarez, V. Rodríguez Bouza, S. Sanchez Cruz
Universidad de Oviedo, Instituto Universitario de Ciencias y Tecnologías Espaciales de Asturias (ICTEA), Oviedo, Spain

I.J. Cabrillo, A. Calderon, B. Chazin Quero, J. Duarte Campderros, M. Fernandez, P.J. Fernández Manteca, A. García Alonso, G. Gomez, C. Martinez Rivero, P. Martinez Ruiz del Arbol, F. Matorras, J. Piedra Gomez, C. Prieels, F. Ricci-Tam, T. Rodrigo, A. Ruíz-Jimeno, L. Russo45, L. Scodellaro, I. Vila, J.M. Vizan Garcia
Instituto de Física de Cantabria (IFCA), CSIC-Universidad de Cantabria, Santander, Spain

D.U.J. Sonnadara
University of Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka

W.G.D. Dharmaratna, N. Wickramage
University of Ruhuna, Department of Physics, Matura, Sri Lanka
The CMS Collaboration

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Istanbul
A. Cakir, B. Isildak, Y. Komurcu, S. Sen

Bogazici
I.O. Atakisi, E. Gülmez, M. Kaya, O. Kaya, Ö. Özçelik, S. Tekten

Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey
M. Bachtis, C. Bravo, R. Cousins, A. Dasgupta, A. Florent, J. Hauser, M. Ignatenko, N. McColl, W.A. Nash, S. Regnard, D. Saltzberg, C. Schnaible, B. Stone, V. Valuev

University of California, Los Angeles, USA

K. Burt, Y. Chen, R. Clare, J.W. Gary, S.M.A. Ghiasi Shirazi, G. Hanson, G. Karapostoli, O.R. Long, N. Manganelli, M. Olmedo Negrete, M.I. Paneva, W. Si, S. Wimpenny, B.R. Yates, Y. Zhang

University of California, Riverside, Riverside, USA

J.G. Branson, P. Chang, S. Cittolin, S. Cooperstein, N. Deelen, M. Derdzinski, J. Duarte, R. Gerona, D. Gilbert, B. Hashemi, D. Klein, V. Krutelyov, J. Letts, M. Masciovecchio, S. May, S. Padhi, M. Pieri, V. Sharma, M. Tadel, F. Würthwein, A. Yagil, G. Zevi Della Porta

University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, USA

N. Amin, R. Bhandari, C. Campagnari, M. Citron, V. Dutta, J. Incandela, B. Marsh, H. Mei, A. Ovcharova, H. Qu, J. Richman, U. Sarica, D. Stuart, S. Wang

University of California, Santa Barbara – Department of Physics, Santa Barbara, USA

D. Anderson, A. Bornheim, O. Cerri, I. Dutta, J.M. Lawhorn, N. Lu, J. Mao, H.B. Newman, T.Q. Nguyen, J. Pata, M. Spiropulu, J.R. Vlimant, S. Xie, Z. Zhang, R.Y. Zhu

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA

J. Alison, M.B. Andrews, T. Ferguson, T. Mudholkar, M. Paulini, M. Sun, I. Vorobiev, M. Weinberg

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA

J.P. Cumalat, W.T. Ford, E. MacDonald, T. Mulholland, R. Patel, A. Perloff, K. Stenson, K.A. Ulmer, S.R. Wagner

University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, USA

J. Alexander, Y. Cheng, J. Chu, A. Datta, A. Frankenthal, K. Mcdermott, J.R. Patterson, D. Quach, A. Ryd, S.M. Tan, Z. Tao, J. Thom, P. Wittich, M. Zientek

Cornell University, Ithaca, USA

S. Abdullin, M. Albrow, M. Alyari, G. Apollinari, A. Apresyan, A. Apyan, S. Banerjee, L.A.T. Bauerdick, A. Beretvas, D. Berry, J. Berryhill, P.C. Bhat, K. Burkett, J.N. Butler, A. Canepa, G.B. Cerati, H.W.K. Cheung, F. Chlebana, M. Cremonesi, V.D. Elvira, J. Freeman, Z. Gecse, E. Gottschalk, L. Gray, D. Green, S. Grünendahl, O. Gutsche, J. Hanlon, R.M. Harris, S. Hasegawa, R. Heller, H. Hirscher, B. Jayatilaka, S. Jindariani, M. Johnson, U. Joshi, T. Klijnsma, B. Klima, M.J. Kortelainen, B. Kreis, S. Lammel, J. Lewis, D. Lincoln, R. Lipton, M. Liu, T. Liu, J. Lykken, K. Maeshima, J.M. Marraffino, D. Mason, P. McBride, P. Merkel, S. Mrenna, S. Nahn, V. O’Dell, V. Papadimitriou, K. Pedro, C. Pena, F. Ravera, A. Reinsvold Hall, L. Ristori, B. Schneider, E. Sexton-Kennedy, N. Smith, A. Soha, W.J. Spalding, L. Spiegel, S. Stoynev, J. Strait, L. Taylor, S. Tkaczyk, N.V. Tran, L. Uplegger, E.W. Vaandering, R. Vidal, M. Wang, H.A. Weber, A. Woodard

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, USA

D. Acosta, P. Avery, D. Bourilkov, L. Cadamuro, V. Cherepanov, F. Errico, R.D. Field, D. Guerrero, B.M. Joshi, M. Kim, J. Konigsberg, A. Korytov, K.H. Lo, K. Matchev, N. Menendez, G. Mitselmakher, D. Rosenzweig, K. Shi, J. Wang, S. Wang, X. Zuo

University of Florida, Gainesville, USA

Y.R. Joshi

Florida International University, Miami, USA
T. Adams, A. Askew, R. Habibullah, S. Hagopian, V. Hagopian, K.F. Johnson, R. Khurana, T. Kolberg, G. Martinez, T. Perry, H. Prosper, C. Schiber, R. Yohay, J. Zhang

Florida State University, Tallahassee, USA

M.M. Baarmand, M. Hohlmann, D. Noonan, M. Rahmani, M. Saunders, F. Yumiceva

Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, USA

M.R. Adams, L. Apanasevich, R.R. Betts, R. Cavanaugh, X. Chen, S. Dittmer, O. Evdokimov, C.E. Gerber, D.A. Hangal, D.J. Hofman, V. Kumar, C. Mills, G. Oh, T. Roy, M.B. Tonjes, N. Varelas, J. Viinikainen, H. Wang, X. Wang, Z. Wu

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Chicago, USA

M. Alhusseini, B. Bilki, K. Dilsiz, S. Durgut, R.P. Gandrajula, M. Haytmyradov, V. Khristenko, O.K. Köseyan, J.-P. Merlo, A. Mestvirishvili, A. Moeller, J. Nachtman, H. Ogul, Y. Onel, F. Ozok, A. Penzo, C. Snyder, E. Tiras, J. Wetzel, K. Yi

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA

M. Anderson, D. Abercrombie, B. Allen, R. Bi, S. Brandt, W. Busza, I.A. Cali, M. D’Alfonso, G. Gomez Ceballos, M. Goncharov, P. Harris, D. Hsu, M. Hu, M. Klute, D. Kovalskyi, Y.-J. Lee, P.D. Luckey, B. Maier, A.C. Marini, C. Mcginn, C. Mironov, S. Narayanan, X. Niu, C. Paus, D. Rankin, C. Roland, G. Roland, Z. Shi, G.S.F. Stephens, K. Sumorok, K. Tatar, D. Velicanu, J. Wang, T.W. Wang, B. Wyslouch

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA

R.M. Chatterjee, A. Evans, S. Guts, P. Hansen, J. Hiltbrand, Sh. Jain, Y. Kubota, Z. Lesko, J. Mans, M. Revering, R. Rusack, R. Saradhy, N. Schroeder, N. Strobbe, M.A. Wadud

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

J.G. Acosta, S. Oliveros

University of Mississippi, Oxford, USA

K. Bloom, S. Chauhan, D.R. Claes, C. Fangmeier, L. Finco, F. Golf, R. Kamalieddin, I. Kravchenko, J.E. Siado, G.R. Snow, B. Stieger, W. Tabb

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, USA
O. Bouhali, M. Dalchenko, A. Delgado, R. Eusebi, J. Gilmore, T. Huang, T. Kamon, H. Kim, S. Luo, S. Malhotra, D. Marley, R. Mueller, D. Overton, L. Perniè, D. Rathjens, A. Safonov

Texas A&M University, College Station, USA

N. Akchurin, J. Damgov, F. De Guio, V. Hegde, S. Kunori, K. Lamicichane, S.W. Lee, T. Mengke, S. Muthumuni, T. Peltola, S. Undleeb, I. Volobouev, Z. Wang, A. Whitbeck

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, USA

S. Greene, A. Gurrula, R. Janjam, W. Johns, C. Maguire, A. Melo, H. Ni, K. Padeken, F. Romeo, P. Sheldon, S. Tuo, J. Velkovska, M. Verweij

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA

M.W. Arenton, P. Barria, B. Cox, G. Cummings, J. Hakala, R. Hirosky, M. Joyce, A. Ledovskoy, C. Neu, B. Tannenwald, Y. Wang, E. Wolfe, F. Xia

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA

R. Harr, P.E. Karchin, N. Poudyal, J. Sturdy, P. Thapa

Wayne State University, Detroit, USA

K. Black, T. Bose, J. Buchanan, C. Caillol, D. Carlsmith, S. Dasu, I. De Bruyn, L. Dodd, C. Galloni, H. He, M. Herndon, A. Hervé, U. Hussain, A. Lanaro, A. Loeliger, R. Loveless, J. Madhusudanan Sreekala, A. Mallampalli, D. Pinna, T. Ruggles, A. Savin, V. Sharma, W.H. Smith, D. Teague, S. Trembath-reichert

University of Wisconsin – Madison, Madison, WI, USA

1 Deceased.
2 Also at Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria.
3 Also at Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium.
4 Also at IRFU, CEA, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France.
5 Also at Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, Brazil.
6 Also at Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil.
7 Also at UFMS, Nova Andradina, Brazil.
8 Also at Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Pelotas, Brazil.
9 Also at University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China.
10 Also at Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia.
11 Also at Suez University, Suez, Egypt.
12 Also at British University in Egypt, Cairo, Egypt.
13 Also at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt.
14 Also at Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA.
15 Also at Université de Haute Alsace, Mulhouse, France.
16 Also at Erzincan Binali Yildrim University, Erzincan, Turkey.
17 Also at CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland.
18 Also at RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut A, Aachen, Germany.
19 Also at University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany.
20 Also at Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus, Germany.
21 Also at Institute of Physics, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary, Debrecen, Hungary.
22 Also at Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary.
23 Also at IIT Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar, India, Bhubaneswar, India.
24 Also at Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, India.
25 Also at G.J.H. Khalsa College, Punjab, India.
26 Also at Shoolini University, Solan, India.
27 Also at University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, India.
28 Also at University of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India.
29 Also at INFN Sezione di Bari 4, Università di Bari 6, Politecnico di Bari 5, Bari, Italy.
30 Also at Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development, Bologna, Italy.
31 Also at Centro Siciliano di Fisica Nucleare e di Struttura Della Materia, Catania, Italy.
32 Also at Riga Technical University, Riga, Latvia, Riga, Latvia.
33 Also at Malaysian Nuclear Agency, MOSTI, Kajang, Malaysia.
34 Also at Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Mexico City, Mexico.
35 Also at Warsaw University of Technology, Institute of Electronic Systems, Warsaw, Poland.
36 Also at Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia.
37 Now at National Research Nuclear University ‘Moscow Engineering Physics Institute’ (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia.
Also at Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
Also at St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University, St. Petersburg, Russia.
Also at University of Florida, Gainesville, USA.
Also at Imperial College, London, United Kingdom.
Also at P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia.
Also at Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, Novosibirsk, Russia.
Also at Faculty of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia.
Also at Università degli Studi di Siena, Siena, Italy.
Also at INFN Sezione di Pavia, Università di Pavia, Pavia, Italy, Pavia, Italy.
Also at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece.
Also at Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland.
Also at Stefan Meyer Institute for Subatomic Physics, Vienna, Austria, Vienna, Austria.
Also at Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University, BURDUR, Turkey.
Also at Şırnak University, Şırnak, Turkey.
Also at Department of Physics, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, Beijing, China.
Also at Near East University, Research Center of Experimental Health Science, Nicosia, Turkey.
Also at Beykent University, Istanbul, Turkey, Istanbul, Turkey.
Also at Istanbul Aydın University, Application and Research Center for Advanced Studies (App. & Res. Cent. for Advanced Studies), Istanbul, Turkey.
Also at Mersin University, Mersin, Turkey.
Also at Piri Reis University, Istanbul, Turkey.
Also at Ozyegin University, Istanbul, Turkey.
Also at Izmir Institute of Technology, Izmir, Turkey.
Also at Bozok Universitetesi Rektörlügü, Yozgat, Turkey.
Also at Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey.
Also at Milli Savunma University, Istanbul, Turkey.
Also at Kafkas University, Kars, Turkey.
Also at Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey.
Also at Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey.
Also at Adiyaman University, Adiyaman, Turkey.
Also at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium.
Also at School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom.
Also at IPPP Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom.
Also at Monash University, Faculty of Science, Clayton, Australia.
Also at Bethel University, St. Paul, Minneapolis, USA, St. Paul, USA.
Also at Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University, Karaman, Turkey.
Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA.
Also at Bingöl University, Bingöl, Turkey.
Also at Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi, Georgia.
Also at Sinop University, Sinop, Turkey.
Also at Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey.
Also at Nanjing Normal University Department of Physics, Nanjing, China.
Also at Texas A&M University at Qatar, Doha, Qatar.
Also at Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea, Daegu, Republic of Korea.