Measurement of the $Z$ boson differential cross section in transverse momentum and rapidity in proton–proton collisions at 8 TeV

CMS Collaboration; Khachatryan, V; Sirunyan, A M; Tumasyan, A; Amsler, C; Canelli, F; Chiochia, V; De Cosa, A; Hinzmann, A; Hreus, T; Kilminster, B; Lange, C; Ngadiuba, J; Pinna, D; Robmann, P; Ronga, F J; Taroni, S; Yang, Y; et al

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Abstract

We present a measurement of the Z boson differential cross section in rapidity and transverse momentum using a data sample of pp collision events at a centre-of-mass energy $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of $19.7 \text{ fb}^{-1}$. The Z boson is identified via its decay to a pair of muons. The measurement provides a precision test of quantum chromodynamics over a large region of phase space. In addition, due to the small experimental uncertainties in the measurement the data has the potential to constrain the gluon parton distribution function in the kinematic regime important for Higgs boson production via gluon fusion. The results agree with the next-to-next-to-leading-order predictions computed with the FEWZ program. The results are also compared to the commonly used leading-order MADGRAPH and next-to-leading-order POWHEG generators.

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1 Introduction

The production of lepton pairs in proton-proton collisions is dominated by the Drell–Yan (DY) process i.e. the production of an intermediate $\gamma^*/Z$ boson by the incoming partons. Measurements of the cross sections as a function of the mass of the intermediate boson (hereafter referred to as the ’Z boson’), rapidity, and transverse momentum provide a very sensitive test of quantum chromodynamics (QCD). Precise measurement of the differential cross section also allows comparisons to calculations employing different parton distribution functions (PDF) and underlying theoretical models. Finally, the understanding of DY lepton pair production is important in the study of several physics processes, such as diboson and $t\bar{t}$ production, as well as in searches for new resonances decaying to dileptons in models of physics beyond the standard model. Differential measurements of Z boson production at the LHC have already been performed [1–8].

In this Letter we present the first measurement of the DY cross section at a centre-of-mass energy of 8 TeV for dimuon pairs in the vicinity of the Z boson peak, doubly differential in the transverse momentum $q_T$ and in the rapidity $y$ of the Z boson. The analysis uses the data sample of pp collisions collected with the CMS detector at the LHC in 2012, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of $19.7 \text{ fb}^{-1}$. We present the absolute fiducial cross section and the fiducial cross section normalised to the inclusive fiducial cross section. The measurement probes the production of Z bosons up to high transverse momenta, $q_T \sim 100 \text{ GeV}$, a kinematic regime where the production is dominated by gluon-quark fusion. The precision of this measurement leads to experimental uncertainties smaller than or similar to the uncertainties of the gluon PDF in the kinematic region that is relevant to the production of the Higgs boson via the gluon fusion mechanism. Using the Z boson production process to constrain the gluon PDF [9] in the future would be complementary to other processes such as direct photon production [10] and top-quark pair production [11] that constrain the gluon PDF in this regime. Moreover, several of the experimental systematic uncertainties in the DY measurement are uncorrelated with these other processes. The latter have more complex topologies and thus have complementary and potentially larger systematic uncertainties.

2 The CMS detector

A more detailed description of the CMS detector, together with a definition of the coordinate system and the relevant kinematic variables, can be found in Ref. [12]. The central feature of the CMS apparatus is a superconducting solenoid of 6 m internal diameter, providing a magnetic field of 3.8 T. Within the solenoid volume are a silicon pixel and strip tracker, a lead tungsten crystal electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL), and a brass/scintillator hadron calorimeter (HCAL), each composed of a barrel and two endcap sections. Muons are measured in gas-ionisation detectors embedded in the steel flux-return yoke outside the solenoid. Extensive forward calorimetry complements the coverage provided by the barrel and endcap detectors. Muons are measured in the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 2.4$, with detection planes made using three technologies: drift tubes, cathode strip chambers, and resistive-plate chambers. Matching muons to tracks measured in the silicon tracker results in a relative $p_T$ resolution of 1.3–2.0% in the barrel and better than 6% in the endcaps, for muons with $20 < p_T < 100 \text{ GeV}$. The $p_T$ resolution in the barrel is better than 10% for muons with $p_T$ up to 1 TeV [13]. The particle-flow event reconstruction [14, 15] is used in this analysis. It works by reconstructing and identifying each particle with an optimised combination of all subdetector information. The energy of photons is directly obtained from the ECAL measurement, corrected for zero-suppression effects. The energy of electrons is determined from a combination of the track momentum at
the main interaction vertex, the corresponding ECAL cluster energy, and the energy sum of all bremsstrahlung photons. The energy of muons is obtained from the corresponding track momentum. The energy of charged hadrons is determined from a combination of the track momentum and the corresponding ECAL and HCAL energies, corrected for zero-suppression effects, and calibrated for the nonlinear response of the calorimeters. Finally, the energy of neutral hadrons is obtained from the corresponding calibrated ECAL and HCAL energies. The first level of the CMS trigger system, composed of custom hardware processors, uses information from the calorimeters and muon detectors to select the most interesting events in a fixed time interval of less than 4 $\mu$s. The high-level trigger processor farm further decreases the event rate from around 100 kHz to around 400 Hz before data storage.

3 Simulation

The signal process is simulated using the leading-order (LO) MADGRAPH 1.3.30 [16] generator with 0–4 additional jets, interfaced with PYTHIA [17] v6.4.24 with the Z2* tune [18]. The matching between matrix element calculation and parton shower is performed with the $k_T$-MLM algorithm [19]. Multiple-parton interactions are accounted for via PYTHIA. The LO CTEQ6L1 [20] PDF set is used for the generation. As a cross-check, a second signal sample is simulated using the next-to-leading-order (NLO) POWHEG [21–24] generator interfaced with PYTHIA. For this generation the NLO CT10 [25] PDF set is used.

The backgrounds are generated with MADGRAPH (W+jets, tt, $\tau\tau$), POWHEG (single top quark [26, 27]), and PYTHIA (dibosons, WW, WZ, ZZ). The inclusive cross sections of DY, W+jets [28], and tt [29] processes are normalised to next-to-next-to-leading-order (NNLO) predictions. In addition, for the single top quark a higher-order (approximate NNLO [30]) inclusive cross section is used. The generated events are passed through a detector simulation based on GEANT4 [31]. The simulated processes are overlaid with minimum bias collisions in order to reproduce the distribution of the number of additional proton-proton interactions per bunch crossing (pileup) present in data.

In addition, for comparison with the final result the double differential cross section is computed with FEWZ 3.1.b2 [32] at NNLO. The electroweak corrections are computed at NLO and initial-state photon radiation and photon-induced processes are included in the generation. The computation is done for each $q_T$ bin separately. The factorisation and renormalisation scales are chosen as $\sqrt{M_Z^2 + q_T^2}$, where $M_Z$ is the mass of the Z boson and $q_T$ is the value of the lower edge of the corresponding bin in $q_T$. For the computation the NNLO NNPDF23 PDF set with radiative corrections [33] is used.

4 Event selection

An isolated single-muon trigger is used with a threshold of $p_T > 24$ GeV and a requirement of $|\eta| < 2.1$. The standard CMS baseline offline muon selection [13] is applied. It requires that the muon candidate is reconstructed both in the muon detectors and in the inner tracker, with $\chi^2 / n_{dof} < 10$ for the track fit. In addition, requirements are placed on the minimum number of pixel and tracker layers that are hit and on detailed matching criteria between the trajectories reconstructed in the inner tracker and the muon system. The distance between the muon candidate trajectory and the primary vertex is required to be smaller than 2 mm in the transverse plane and smaller than 5 mm in the longitudinal direction. The vertex with the highest sum of $p_T^2$ of associated tracks is selected as the primary vertex. The leading reconstructed muon in $p_T$ is required to be the one selected by the trigger. In order to be within the trigger
acceptance, the leading muon is selected with $p_T > 25\text{ GeV}$ and $|\eta| < 2.1$. The second muon is required to have $p_T > 10\text{ GeV}$ and $|\eta| < 2.4$. The relative isolation is defined to be the scalar sum of the transverse momenta of charged hadrons, neutral hadrons, and photons in a cone of $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta \eta)^2 + (\Delta \phi)^2} < 0.4$ around the muon direction, divided by $p_T$. After correction for pileup, the value of the relative isolation is required to be less than 0.12 (0.5) for the leading (second) muon. A pair of oppositely charged muons is required to have an invariant mass $M(\mu\mu)$ between 81 and 101 GeV. In the rare case of ambiguity among several reconstructed muons, the muon pair with the invariant mass closest to the Z boson mass is selected. The absolute rapidity $|y|$ of the muon pair must be less than 2.

Scale factors are applied to account for known differences between data and simulation. The efficiencies for the tracking, the trigger, the muon isolation and identification are determined via a “tag-and-probe” method \cite{34}. The tracking efficiency is measured in bins of $\eta$. The trigger efficiency is measured in bins of muon $p_T$ and $\eta$ for positive and negative muons separately. The identification efficiency is measured in bins of $p_T$ and $\eta$. In particular phase space regions, especially for higher $q_T$, the second muon can often point opposite to the Z boson in the azimuthal plane. In that direction, the hadronic activity from the recoil of the Z boson is enhanced. Thus the second muon is often less isolated than the leading muon and the isolation depends on the event kinematics. For that reason, the requirement for the isolation of the second muon is looser than the requirement for the leading muon, and the efficiency is measured in variables reflecting the second muon direction with respect to the Z boson. Three variables for the second muon are chosen to measure this effect on the efficiency in data: the transverse momentum of the dimuon system $q_T$, the cosine of the polar angle $\cos \theta^*$ and the azimuthal angle $\phi^*$. The two angles are measured in the Z boson rest frame, where the z axis is the Z boson flight direction. For $\cos(\theta^*) = -1$ the leptons are more likely to be close to the hadronic recoil. The azimuthal angle is chosen to be zero for the proton closest to the z axis in this frame. The isolation efficiency for the leading muon is measured in bins of $p_T$ and $\eta$. These efficiencies are measured in data and simulation, and scale factors are applied to the simulation to account for differences with respect to the data.

The backgrounds are small relative to the signal (at the percent level or smaller) and can be divided into two categories: those where the leptons come from Z boson decays and those where the leptons stem from other sources. The backgrounds from $t\bar{t}$, $\tau\tau$, WW, tW, and W+jets are estimated from specific data samples. Backgrounds typically have two prompt leptons, although not necessarily of the same lepton flavor: flavor universality is used for the background estimation. The estimation consists of two steps. First, the oppositely charged mixed lepton $e\mu$ yields are measured in both data and MC. Then the ratio of the yields in data and simulation in this data sample ($e\mu$ channel) is used to normalise the simulation in the muon channel. The $e\mu$-channel selection uses the same trigger as the final sample, thus the same trigger efficiency scale factor is used. In addition, the tracking, the identification, and the isolation efficiency scale factors for the leading muon are applied. Electrons are selected if they have $p_T(e) > 20\text{ GeV}$ and $|\eta(e)| < 2.1$, which is similar to the fiducial regions of the muon selection. No data-to-simulation correction factors are applied to the electron identification since the effect on the final results is negligible. In order to enhance the statistical precision, the invariant mass range of the $e\mu$ pairs is increased to [60,120] GeV. Within the uncertainties, no significant trend in $q_T$ and $|y|$ is observed in the ratio of the $e\mu$ yields in data and simulation, and a constant scale factor of $0.987 \pm 0.008$ is used. The WZ and ZZ backgrounds, which include a true $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$ decay, are taken from simulation.
5 Measured observables and granularity

The reconstructed and background-corrected double differential distribution in $q_T$ and $|y|$ is unfolded to pre-final-state radiation (FSR) lepton kinematics. The unfolding is performed to the kinematic region $81 \leq M(\mu\mu) < 101$ GeV and within the kinematic selection of the leading (second) muon, $p_T > 25\,(10)$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.1\,(2.4)$. The unfolding is done using an iterative unfolding technique \[35\] implemented in the RooUnfold package \[36\]. The bins in $q_T$ are $[0,20]$, $[20,40]$, $[40,60]$, $[60,80]$, $[80,100]$, $[100,120]$, $[120,140]$, $[140,170]$, $[170,200]$, $[200,1000]$. In $|y|$ a constant bin width of 0.4 is used and the binning ends at 2.

**MadGraph** is used as simulation input to the unfolding. The unfolding is validated by treating the simulated **POWHEG** signal sample as data. The unfolded **POWHEG** distribution is found to be compatible with the distribution at the generator level within unfolding uncertainty.

6 Systematic uncertainties

The sources of systematic uncertainty are ordered by their average size starting with the largest one. The full covariance matrix is computed for both the normalised and the absolute cross section.

- **Luminosity uncertainty:**
  The uncertainty in the measurement of the integrated luminosity is 2.6% \[37\].

- **Tracking, muon trigger, isolation, and identification efficiency correction factors:**
  A potential bias in the measurement of the efficiencies with the tag-and-probe technique is estimated by varying the most sensitive components: the background in simulation is removed and doubled; the signal is parametrised with the sum of two Voigtian functions instead of the sum of a Crystal Ball and a Gaussian function; the efficiencies are parametrised only in $\eta$ but with finer bins; and, only tags with a single available probe are selected for the measurement instead of all possible pairs. For each contribution a 100% correlation is assumed in the covariance matrix. The effect of statistical uncertainties in the measured data-to-simulation scale factors is estimated by their variation within the uncertainties in a series of pseudo-experiments. Combining the effects extracted from these variations, the systematic uncertainties are typically between 1% and 1.6%, depending on the bin, and increase with $q_T$.

- **Pileup uncertainty:**
  The cross section of minimum bias events is varied by $\pm 5\%$ and the impact of the pileup multiplicity in the simulation on the measurement is used as correlated uncertainty for all bins. This uncertainty is at maximum around 0.5% and is negligible compared to the leading uncertainties.

- **Statistical uncertainties of the simulation:**
  The uncertainty due to the limited number of events in simulation is estimated via pseudo-experiments by varying the response matrix and the efficiency within the statistical uncertainties.

- **FSR:**
  The simulation is reweighted to reflect the difference between a soft-collinear approach and the exact $O(\alpha)$ result, similar to what was done in Ref. \[34\]. It also reflects effects from higher-order contributions. The difference between the measurements with and without the reweighting is assigned as an uncertainty and is assumed to be fully correlated for the covariance matrix.
• Backgrounds:
  • $t\bar{t}W$, WW, W+jets, and $\tau\tau$ backgrounds:
    A 10% uncertainty is assigned to the scale factor derived in the $e\mu$ method. This accounts for the statistical uncertainty of the scale factor and for the uncertainties in the lepton efficiencies. For the covariance matrix full correlation is assumed.
  • WW and ZZ backgrounds:
    The diboson backgrounds that include a Z boson are determined from simulation. The cross sections are varied by 50% to estimate the systematic uncertainty. While the inclusive cross sections have been measured to agree reasonably well [38–40], we assign conservatively 50% to account for the fact that we use the $q_T$ and $|y|$ shapes from LO calculations.

• Muon momentum resolution:
  The muon momentum resolution is measured in data and simulation, and corresponding corrections are applied. The covariance accounting for the statistical uncertainty of the muon momentum correction measurements is calculated via pseudo-experiments. In addition, an uncertainty is assigned to take into account possible correlated offsets.

• Z boson polarisation:
  The lepton angular distribution of the Drell–Yan process can be described at LO through the coefficients, $A_0–A_4$ [41]. However, inaccuracies in the way this is modelled in the simulation can affect the result of the unfolding. The angular coefficients $A_0–A_4$ are inferred in bins of $q_T$ and $|y|$ in [42] for both data and simulation we use. For each parameter $A_i$, the simulation is independently reweighted to correspond to the data as measured in [42]. In case the difference in $A_i$ is smaller than the typical theoretical uncertainty of 10% [43] $A_i$ is varied by 10%. The full difference between the default polarisation and the changed polarisation is assigned as systematic uncertainty. Full correlation is assumed between the bins.

• $q_T$ and $y$ shapes:
  The dependence of the results on the $q_T$ and $y$ shapes of the simulation is studied by repeating the analysis using POWHEG as the signal sample. The results obtained using MADGRAPH or POWHEG for the unfolding are compatible with each other within the statistical uncertainties. In addition, the MADGRAPH simulation is weighted in fine bins in $q_T$ and $y$ to match the background-corrected data. The effect on the result using the reweighted simulation for the unfolding is much smaller than the uncertainties assigned to the limited statistics of simulation and is neglected.

The contributions of the uncertainties to the normalised cross section measurement are presented in Fig. 1. The systematic uncertainty is dominated by the uncertainty in the efficiency correction. In the highest bins of $q_T$ the measurement is dominated by the statistical uncertainties. The uncertainty contributions to the absolute cross section measurement are presented in Fig. 2.

### 7 Results

The double differential cross section normalised to the inclusive cross section for Z bosons decaying to muons is presented in Table 1. A comparison of the measurement with the NNLO FEWZ computation is shown in Fig. 3 where the first five plots show the $q_T$ dependence in the
Figure 1: Relative uncertainties in percent of the normalised fiducial cross section measurement. Each plot shows the $q_T$ dependence in the indicated ranges of $|y|$.

Figure 2: Relative uncertainties in percent of the absolute fiducial cross section measurement. The 2.6% uncertainty in the luminosity is not included. Each plot shows the $q_T$ dependence in the indicated ranges of $|y|$.

five bins in $|y|$ and the last plot shows the $q_T$ dependence integrated over $|y|$. In the bottom panels the ratio of the FENGZ prediction to data is shown. The vertical error bars represent the statistical uncertainties of data and simulation. The red-hatched bands drawn at the points represent the systematic uncertainties of the measurement only. The scale uncertainties are indicated by the grey-shaded areas and the PDF uncertainties by the light-hatched bands. The scale uncertainties are estimated from the envelope of the following combinations of variations of the factorisation $\mu_F$ and the renormalisation $\mu_R$ scales: $(2\mu_F, 2\mu_R)$, $(0.5\mu_F, 0.5\mu_R)$, $(2\mu_F, \mu_R)$,
The PDF uncertainties in the region $q_T > 20 \text{ GeV}$ range between $+1\%$ and $-4\%$. The uncertainty is asymmetric because the inclusive cross section computed using the NNLO CT10 PDF set is about $2.5\%$ larger than the one obtained using the NNLO NNPDF23 PDF set.

The NNLO FEWZ computation predicts the shape correctly, within scale uncertainties of order $6$–$12\%$, where the default scale has the general feature of underestimating the relative abundance of high-$q_T$ ($>20 \text{ GeV}$) events at the $7\%$ level. The shape in $|y|$ is well described by FEWZ.

The absolute double differential cross section is presented in Table 2. The comparison with the NNLO computation of the FEWZ program is shown in Fig. 4. The scale uncertainties range from $10$–$16\%$ for $q_T > 20 \text{ GeV}$. The PDF uncertainties are of the order of $3\%$ in the central rapidity region and decrease to about $1\%$ in the forward region. The absolute cross section predicted by the NNLO program FEWZ agrees within the uncertainties with the measurement.

A comparison of the measurements with the MADGRAPH and the POWHEG generators is shown in Fig. 5. The statistical uncertainties are smaller than the symbol size. The hatched bands represent the systematic uncertainties of the measurement only. The two generators show opposite trends in $q_T$. The MADGRAPH generator overestimates the data in the highest $q_T$ bins, whereas the POWHEG generator underestimates the data up to $20\%$ in this region. Also shown are the absolute differential cross section predictions of MADGRAPH and POWHEG after normalising their inclusive cross-sections to the NNLO cross section by $K$ factors, that are independent of $q_T$ and $|y|$.

Table 1: Measured double differential fiducial cross section normalised to the inclusive fiducial cross section in units of $\text{GeV}^{-1}$.

| $q_T$ [GeV] | $0 \leq |y| < 0.4$ | $0.4 \leq |y| < 0.8$ | $0.8 \leq |y| < 1.2$ | $1.2 \leq |y| < 1.6$ | $1.6 \leq |y| < 2$ |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|            | $d^2\sigma/dyq_T$ | $\delta\sigma/\sigma$ [%] | $\delta\sigma/\sigma$ [%] | $\delta\sigma/\sigma$ [%] | $\delta\sigma/\sigma$ [%] |
| [0.20]     | $2.10 \times 10^{-4}$ | 0.09 | 0.30 | 0.09 | 0.30 |
| [0.40]     | $6.90 \times 10^{-4}$ | 0.18 | 0.44 | 0.19 | 0.42 |
| [0.60]     | $2.28 \times 10^{-3}$ | 0.30 | 0.84 | 0.31 | 0.80 |
| [0.80]     | $9.79 \times 10^{-4}$ | 0.47 | 0.99 | 0.48 | 0.94 |
| [1.00]     | $4.73 \times 10^{-4}$ | 0.69 | 1.33 | 0.71 | 1.26 |
| [1.20]     | $2.33 \times 10^{-4}$ | 1.02 | 1.44 | 1.01 | 1.36 |
| [1.40]     | $1.33 \times 10^{-4}$ | 1.37 | 1.51 | 1.24 | 1.42 |
| [1.60]     | $6.82 \times 10^{-5}$ | 1.57 | 1.59 | 1.45 | 1.50 |
| [1.80]     | $3.48 \times 10^{-5}$ | 1.87 | 2.04 | 1.76 | 1.80 |
| [2.00,200] | $2.88 \times 10^{-5}$ | 2.36 | 1.91 | 2.35 | 1.88 |
| [2.00,1000]| $1.31 \times 10^{-6}$ | 2.01 | 1.64 | 1.96 | 1.57 |

8 Summary

For $Z$ bosons decaying to muons the double differential $Z$ boson fiducial cross section at $q_T$ and $|y|$ has been measured in $pp$ collisions at $8 \text{ TeV}$. The results are compared to the next-to-next-to-leading-order predictions computed with the FEWZ program and they agree within the scale uncertainties. Deviations from the data of up to $20\%$ at high transverse momentum are
Figure 3: The measured fiducial Z boson differential cross section, normalised to the inclusive fiducial cross section compared to the NNLO prediction of FEWZ. The first five plots show the $q_T$ dependence in the five bins of $|y|$ and the last plot shows the $q_T$ dependence integrated over $|y|$. The NNLO NNPDF23 PDF set with radiative corrections is used for the generation. We include data in $q_T$ up to 1 TeV, but have shortened the bin for presentation purposes.

Table 2: Measured absolute double differential fiducial cross section in units of pb/GeV.

| $q_T$ [GeV] | $0 < |y| < 0.4$ | $0.4 < |y| < 0.8$ | $0.8 < |y| < 1.2$ | $1.2 < |y| < 1.6$ | $1.6 < |y| < 2.0$ |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|             | $d^2\sigma$ | $\Delta\sigma$ | $\Delta\sigma$ | $\Delta\sigma$ | $\Delta\sigma$ |
| [0.20]      | 9.87          | 0.10            | 2.84            | 9.86            | 0.10            | 2.83            | 9.20            | 0.10            | 2.85            | 6.89            | 0.12            | 2.85            | 3.71            | 0.18            | 2.87            |
| [0.40]      | 2.92          | 0.19            | 2.85            | 2.86            | 0.19            | 2.86            | 2.59            | 0.20            | 2.87            | 1.93            | 0.24            | 2.90            | 1.02            | 0.34            | 2.94            |
| [0.60]      | 1.07          | 0.30            | 2.93            | 1.05            | 0.31            | 2.94            | 9.35 x 10^{-1} | 0.35            | 2.97            | 7.19 x 10^{-1} | 0.41            | 2.98            | 3.82 x 10^{-1} | 0.57            | 3.14            |
| [0.80]      | 4.61 x 10^{-1} | 0.47            | 2.97            | 4.60 x 10^{-1} | 0.48            | 2.98            | 1.60 x 10^{-1} | 0.52            | 3.00            | 3.21 x 10^{-1} | 0.62            | 3.08            | 1.77 x 10^{-1} | 0.87            | 3.25            |
| [1.00]      | 2.23 x 10^{-3} | 0.69            | 3.09            | 2.15 x 10^{-3} | 0.71            | 3.09            | 1.99 x 10^{-1} | 0.77            | 3.12            | 1.61 x 10^{-1} | 0.89            | 3.19            | 9.05 x 10^{-2} | 1.25            | 3.40            |
| [1.20]      | 1.10 x 10^{-3} | 1.02            | 3.16            | 1.10 x 10^{-3} | 1.01            | 3.13            | 1.03 x 10^{-1} | 1.10            | 3.15            | 8.46 x 10^{-2} | 1.25            | 3.24            | 4.74 x 10^{-2} | 1.76            | 3.51            |
| [1.40]      | 6.18 x 10^{-3} | 1.26            | 3.19            | 5.41 x 10^{-2} | 1.42            | 3.19            | 5.41 x 10^{-2} | 1.55            | 3.22            | 4.76 x 10^{-2} | 1.72            | 3.27            | 2.84 x 10^{-2} | 2.40            | 3.54            |
| [1.60]      | 3.02 x 10^{-3} | 1.57            | 3.22            | 2.98 x 10^{-2} | 1.57            | 3.21            | 2.84 x 10^{-2} | 1.69            | 3.24            | 2.41 x 10^{-2} | 1.93            | 3.32            | 2.84 x 10^{-2} | 2.67            | 3.67            |
| [1.80]      | 1.36 x 10^{-3} | 2.36            | 3.37            | 1.38 x 10^{-2} | 2.35            | 3.36            | 1.36 x 10^{-2} | 2.61            | 3.43            | 1.13 x 10^{-2} | 2.99            | 3.56            | 7.00 x 10^{-3} | 4.00            | 4.08            |
| [2.00]      | 6.18 x 10^{-4} | 2.01            | 3.24            | 6.12 x 10^{-4} | 1.96            | 3.21            | 5.52 x 10^{-4} | 2.21            | 3.34            | 4.66 x 10^{-4} | 2.45            | 3.44            | 2.60 x 10^{-4} | 3.40            | 3.67            |
Figure 4: The measured absolute fiducial Z boson differential cross section compared to the NNLO prediction of FEWZ. The first five plots show the $q_T$ dependence in the five bins of $|y|$ and the last plot shows the $q_T$ dependence integrated over $|y|$. We include data in $q_T$ up to 1 TeV, but have shortened the bin for presentation purposes.
Figure 5: Normalised (left) and absolute (right) fiducial Z boson cross section, as a function of $q_T$, compared to predictions from MADGRAPH (red symbols) and POWHEG (blue symbols). MADGRAPH uses the LO CTEQ6L1 PDF set and POWHEG the NLO CT10 PDF set. The inclusive LO MADGRAPH and the inclusive NLO POWHEG cross sections are scaled to the inclusive NNLO cross section calculated with FEWZ by applying scale factors $K^{FEWZ}_{NNLO}$.

observed in the MADGRAPH and POWHEG generators. The results are presented along with the full covariance matrix in order to enable their use in future fits of the PDF. The experimental uncertainties are significantly smaller than the current theoretical and PDF uncertainties.

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public of Korea); LAS (Lithuania); MOE and UM (Malaysia); CINVESTAV, CONACYT, SEP, and UASLP-FAI (Mexico); MBIE (New Zealand); PAEC (Pakistan); MSHE and NSC (Poland); FCT (Portugal); JINR (Dubna); MON, RosAtom, RAS and RFBR (Russia); MESTD (Serbia); SEIDI and CPAN (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
V. Khachatryan, A.M. Sirunyan, A. Tumasyan

Institut für Hochenergiephysik der OeAW, Wien, Austria
W. Adam, T. Bergauer, M. Dragicevic, J. Erö, M. Friedl, R. Frühwirth1, V.M. Ghete, C. Hartl, N. Hörmann, J. Hrubec, M. Jeitler1, W. Kiesenhofer, V. Knünz, M. Krämer1, I. Krätschmer, D. Liko, I. Mikulec, D. Rabady2, B. Rahbaran, H. Rohringer, R. Schöfbeck, J. Strauss, W. Treiber-Treberspurg, W. Waltenberger, C.-E. Wulz1

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

Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium
S. Alderweireldt, S. Bansal, T. Cornelis, E.A. De Wolf, X. Janssen, A. Knutsen, J. Lauwers, S. Luyckx, S. Ochesanu, R. Rougny, M. Van De Klundert, H. Van Haevermaet, P. Van Mechelen, N. Van Remortel, A. Van Spilbeeck

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium
F. Blekman, S. Blyweert, J. D’Hondt, N. Daci, N. Heracleous, J. Keaveney, S. Lowette, M. Maes, A. Olbrechts, Q. Python, D. Strom, S. Tavernier, W. Van Doninck, P. Van Mulders, G.P. Van Onsem, I. Villella

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium
C. Caillol, B. Clerbaux, G. De Lentdecker, D. Dobur, L. Favart, A.P.R. Gay, A. Grebenyuk, A. Léonard, A. Mohammadi, L. Perini2, A. Randle-conde, T. Reis, T. Seva, L. Thomas, C. Vander Velde, P. Vanlaer, J. Wang, F. Zenoni

Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium
V. Adler, K. Beernaert, L. Benucci, A. Cimmino, S. Costantini, S. Cruyc, A. Fagot, G. Garcia, J. Mccartin, A.A. Ocampo Rios, D. Poyraz, D. Ryckbosch, S. Salva Diblen, M. Sigamani, N. Strobbe, F. Thyssen, M. Tytgat, E. Yazgan, N. Zaganidis

Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
S. Basegmez, C. Beluffi3, G. Bruno, R. Castello, A. Caudron, L. Cear, G.G. Da Silveira, C. Delaere, T. du Pree, D. Favart, L. Fournom, A. Giammanco4, J. Hollar, A. Jafari, P. Jez, M. Komm, V. Lemaître, C. Nuttens, D. Pagano, L. Perrini, A. Pin, K. Piotrzkowski, A. Popov5, L. Quertenmont, M. Selvaggi, M. Vidal Marono

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

Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
W.L. Aldá Júnior, G.A. Alves, L. Brito, M. Correa Martins Junior, T. Dos Reis Martins, J. Molina, C. Mora Herrera, 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. Chinellato6, A. Custódio, E.M. Da Costa, D. De Jesus Damiao, C. De Oliveira Martins, S. Fonseca De Souza, L.M. Huertas Guativa, H. Malbouisson, D. Matos Figueiredo, L. Mundim, H. Nogima, W.L. Prado Da Silva, J. Sampaolalla, A. Santoro, A. Sznajder, E.J. Tonelli Manganote6, A. Vilela Pereira
Universidade Estadual Paulista $^a$, Universidade Federal do ABC $^b$, São Paulo, Brazil
C.A. Bernardes$^a$, S. Dogra$^a$, T.R. Fernandez Perez Tomei$^a$, E.M. Gregores$^b$, P.G. Mercadante$^b$, S.F. Novaes$^a$, Sandra S. Padula$^a$

Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy, Sofia, Bulgaria
A. Aleksandrov, V. Genchev$^2$, R. Hadjiiska, P. Iaydjiev, A. Marinov, S. Piperov, M. Rodozov, S. Stoykova, G. Sultanov, M. Vutova

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

Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing, China
J.G. Bian, G.M. Chen, H.S. Chen, M. Chen, T. Cheng, R. Du, C.H. Jiang, R. Plestina$^7$, F. Romeo, J. Tao, Z. Wang

State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, Peking University, Beijing, China
C. Asawatangtrakuldee, Y. Ban, S. Liu, Y. Mao, S.J. Qian, D. Wang, Z. Xu, F. Zhang$^8$, L. Zhang, W. Zou

Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia
C. Avila, A. Cabrera, L.F. Chaparro Sierra, C. Florez, J.P. Gomez, B. Gomez Moreno, J.C. Sanabria

University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, Split, Croatia
N. Godinovic, D. Lelas, D. Polic, I. Puljak

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

Institute Rudjer Boskovic, Zagreb, Croatia
V. Brigljevic, K. Kadija, J. Luetic, D. Mekterovic, L. Sudic

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

Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
M. Bodlak, M. Finger, M. Finger Jr.$^9$

Academy of Scientific Research and Technology of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Egyptian Network of High Energy Physics, Cairo, Egypt
Y. Assran$^{10}$, A. Ellithi Kamel$^{11}$, M.A. Mahmoud$^{12}$, A. Radi$^{13,14}$

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

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

Helsinki Institute of Physics, Helsinki, Finland
J. Härkönen, V. Karimäki, R. Kinnunen, T. Lampén, K. Lassila-Perini, S. Lehti, T. Lindén, P. Luukka, T. Mäenpää, T. Pelto, E. Tuominen, J. Tuominiemi, E. Tuovinen, L. Wendland

Lappeenranta University of Technology, Lappeenranta, Finland
J. Talvitie, T. Tuuva
Univ. Bielefeld, Math. Inst., Bielefeld, Germany

Université de Lyon, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, CNRS-IN2P3, Institut de Physique Nucléaire de Lyon, Villeurbanne, France

S. Beauceron, N. Beaufare, C. Bernet, G. Boudoul, E. Bouvier, S. Brochet, C.A. Carrillo Montoya, J. Chasserat, R. Chierici, D. Contardo, B. Courbon, P. Depasse, H. El Mamouni, J. Fan, J. Fay, S. Gascon, M. Goureivitch, B. Ille, T. Kurca, M. Lethuillier, M. Mirabito, A.L. Pequegnot, S. Perries, J.D. Ruiz Alvarez, D. Sabes, L. Sgandurra, V. Sordini, M. Vander Donckt, P. Verdier, S. Viret, H. Xiao

Institut Pluridisciplinaire Hubert Curien, Université de Strasbourg, Université de Haute Alsace Mulhouse, CNRS/IN2P3, Strasbourg, France

J.-L. Agram, J. Andrea, A. Aubin, D. Bloch, J.-M. Brom, E.C. Chabert, N. Chanon, C. Collard, E. Conte, J.-C. Fontaine, D. Gelé, U. Goerlach, C. Goetzmann, A.-C. Le Bihan, K. Skovpen, 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, N. Beaufare, C. Bernet, G. Boudoul, E. Bouvier, S. Brochet, C.A. Carrillo Montoya, J. Chasserat, R. Chierici, D. Contardo, B. Courbon, P. Depasse, H. El Mamouni, J. Fan, J. Fay, S. Gascon, M. Goureivitch, B. Ille, T. Kurca, M. Lethuillier, M. Mirabito, A.L. Pequegnot, S. Perries, J.D. Ruiz Alvarez, D. Sabes, L. Sgandurra, V. Sordini, M. Vander Donckt, P. Verdier, S. Viret, H. Xiao

Institute of High Energy Physics and Informatization, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

Z. Tsamalaidze

RWTH Aachen University, I. Physikalisches Institut, Aachen, Germany

C. Autermann, S. Beranek, M. Bontenackels, M. Edelhoff, L. Feld, A. Heister, K. Klein, M. Lipinski, A. Ostapchuk, M. Preuten, F. Raupach, J. Sammet, S. Schael, J.F. Schulte, H. Weber, B. Wittmer, V. Zhukov

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

M. Ata, M. Brodski, E. Dietz-Laursonn, D. Duchardt, M. Erdmann, R. Fischer, A. Güth, T. Hebbeker, C. Heidemann, K. Hoepfner, D. Klingebiel, S. Knutzen, P. Kreuzer, M. Merschmeyer, A. Meyer, P. Millet, M. Olschewski, K. Padeken, P. Papacz, H. Reith, S.A. Schmitz, L. Sønschein, D. Teyssier, S. Thüer

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

V. Cherepanov, Y. Erdogan, G. Flügge, H. Geenen, M. Geisler, W. Haj Ahmad, F. Hoehle, B. Kargoll, T. Kress, Y. Kuessel, A. Künsken, J. Lingemann, A. Nowack, I.M. Nugent, C. Pistone, O. Pooth, A. Stahl

Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany

M. Aldaya Martin, I. Asin, N. Bartosik, J. Behr, U. Behrens, A.J. Bell, A. Bethani, K. Borras, A. Burgmeier, A. Cakir, L. Calligaris, A. Campbell, S. Choudhury, F. Costanza, C. Diez Pardos, G. Dolinska, S. Dooling, T. Dorland, G. Eckerlin, D. Eckstein, T. Eichhorn, G. Flucke, J. Garay Garcia, A. Geiser, A. Gizhko, P. Gunnellini, J. Hauk, M. Hempel, H. Jung, P. Jung, M. Kamenik, J. Khachatryan, T. Konstandin, T. Lederer, M. Ledvina, A. Lenz, S. Leuner, T. Ljung, M. Maier, M. Mantsch, I. Marques, J. Martin, F. Martínez, A. Massikh, A. Mittendorf, K. Möller, R. Mrhos, A. Nii, S. collaborateurs.
INFN Sezione di Napoli, Università di Napoli ‘Federico II’, Napoli, Italy, Università della Basilicata, Potenza, Italy, Università G. Marconi, Roma, Italy
S. Buontempo, N. Cavallo, S. Di Guida, F. Fabozzi, A.O.M. Iorio, L. Lista, S. Meola, M. Merola, P. Paolucci

INFN Sezione di Padova, Università di Padova, Padova, Italy, Università di Trento, Trento, Italy
P. Azzi, N. Bacchetta, D. Bisello, A. Branca, R. Carlin, P. Checchia, M. Dall’Ossio, T. Dorigo, F. Gasparini, U. Gasparini, A. Gozzelino, M. Gulmini, K. Kanishchev, S. Lacaprara, M. Margoni, A.T. Meneguzzo, J. Pazzini, N. Pozzobon, P. Ronchese, F. Simonetto, E. Torassa, M. Tosi, P. Zotto, A. Zucchetta, G. Zumerle

INFN Sezione di Pavia, Università di Pavia, Pavia, Italy
M. Gabusi, A. Magnani, S.P. Ratti, V. Re, C. Riccardi, P. Salvini, I. Vai, P. Vitulo

INFN Sezione di Perugia, Università di Perugia, Perugia, Italy
M. Biasini, G.M. Bilei, D. Ciangottini, L. Fanò, P. Lariccia, G. Mantovani, M. Menichelli, A. Saha, A. Santocchia

INFN Sezione di Roma, Università di Roma, Roma, Italy
L. Barone, F. Cavallari, G. D’imperio, D. Del Re, M. Diemoz, C. Jorda, E. Longo, F. Margaroli, P. Meridiani, F. Micheli, G. Organtini, R. Paramatti, S. Rahatlou, C. Rovelli, F. Santanastasio, L. Soffi, P. Traczyk

INFN Sezione di Torino, Università di Torino, Torino, Italy, Università del Piemonte Orientale, Novara, Italy
N. Amapane, R. Arcidiacono, S. Argiro, M. Arneodo, R. Bellan, C. Biino, N. Cartiglia, S. Casasso, M. Costa, R. Covarelli, A. Degano, G. Dellacasa, N. Demaria, L. Finco, C. Mariotti, S. Maselli, E. Migliore, V. Monaco, M. Musich, M.M. Obertino, L. Pacher, N. Pastrone, M. Pelliccioni, G.L. Pinna Angioni, A. Romero, M. Ruspa, R. Sacchi, A. Solano, A. Staiano, U. Tamponi

INFN Sezione di Trieste, Università di Trieste, Trieste, Italy
S. Belforte, V. Candelise, M. Casarsa, F. Cossutti, G. Della Ricca, B. Gobbo, C. La Licata, M. Marone, A. Schizzi, T. Umer, A. Zanetti

Kangwon National University, Chunchon, Korea
S. Chang, A. Kropivnitskaya, S.K. Nam

Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea
D.H. Kim, G.N. Kim, M.S. Kim, D.J. Kong, S. Lee, Y.D. Oh, H. Park, A. Sakharov, D.C. Son

Chonbuk National University, Jeonju, Korea
T.J. Kim, M.S. Ryu

Chonnam National University, Institute for Universe and Elementary Particles, Kwangju, Korea
J.Y. Kim, D.H. Moon, S. Song
Korea University, Seoul, Korea
S. Choi, D. Gyun, B. Hong, M. Jo, H. Kim, Y. Kim, B. Lee, K.S. Lee, S.K. Park, Y. Roh

Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea
H.D. Yoo

University of Seoul, Seoul, Korea
M. Choi, J.H. Kim, I.C. Park, G. Ryu

Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, Korea
Y. Choi, Y.K. Choi, J. Goh, D. Kim, E. Kwon, J. Lee, I. Yu

Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania
A. Juodagalvis

National Centre for Particle Physics, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
J.R. Komaragiri, M.A.B. Md Ali, W.A.T. Wan Abdullah

Centro de Investigacion y de Estudios Avanzados del IPN, Mexico City, Mexico
E. Casimiro Linares, H. Castilla-Valdez, E. De La Cruz-Burelo, I. Heredia-de La Cruz, A. Hernandez-Almada, R. Lopez-Fernandez, A. Sanchez-Hernandez

Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico
S. Carrillo Moreno, F. Vazquez Valencia

Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, Puebla, Mexico
I. Pedraza, H.A. Salazar Ibarguen

Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, San Luis Potosí, Mexico
A. Morelos Pineda

University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand
D. Krofcheck

University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand
P.H. Butler, S. Reucroft

National Centre for Physics, Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan
A. Ahmad, M. Ahmad, Q. Hassan, H.R. Hoorani, W.A. Khan, T. Khurshid, M. Shoaib

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

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

Laboratório de Instrumentação e Física Experimental de Partículas, Lisboa, Portugal
P. Bargassa, C. Beirão Da Cruz E Silva, A. Di Francesco, P. Faccioli, P.G. Ferreira Parracho, M. Gallinaro, L. Lloret Iglesias, F. Nguyen, J. Rodrigues Antunes, J. Seixas, O. Toldaiev, D. Vadruccio, J. Varela, P. Vischia

Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia
S. Afanasiev, P. Bunin, M. Gavrilenko, I. Golutvin, I. Gorbunov, A. Kamenev, V. Karjavin, V. Konoplyakov, A. Lanev, A. Malakhov, V. Matveev, P. Moisenz, V. Palichik, V. Perelygin, S. Shmatov, N. Skatchkov, V. Smirnov, A. Zarubin
Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina (St. Petersburg), Russia
V. Golovtsov, Y. Ivanov, V. Kim, E. Kuznetsova, P. Levchenko, V. Murzin, V. Oreshkin, I. Smirnov, V. Sulimov, L. Uvarov, S. Vavilov, A. Vorobyev, An. Vorobyev

Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia
Yu. Andreev, A. Dermenev, S. Gninenko, N. Golubev, 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, S. Semenov, A. Spiridonov, V. Stolin, E. Vlasov, A. Zhokin

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

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

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

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

Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT), Madrid, Spain
J. Alcaraz Maestre, E. Calvo, M. Cerrada, M. Chamizo Llatas, N. Colino, B. De La Cruz, A. Delgado Peris, D. Dominguez Vázquez, A. Escalante Del Valle, C. Fernandez Bedoya, J.P. Fernández Ramos, J. Flix, M.C. Fouz, P. Garcia-Abia, O. Gonzalez Lopez, S. Goy Lopez, J.M. Hernandez, M.I. Josa, E. Navarro De Martino, A. Perez-Calero Yzquierdo, J. Puerta Pelayo, A. Quintario Olmeda, I. Redondo, L. Romero, M.S. Soares

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain
C. Albajar, J.F. de Trocóniz, M. Missiroli, D. Moran

Universidad de Oviedo, Oviedo, Spain
H. Brun, J. Cuevas, J. Fernandez Menendez, S. Folgueras, I. Gonzalez Caballero, E. Palencia Cortezon, J.M. Vizan Garcia

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

CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland
D. Abbaneo, E. Auffray, G. Auzinger, M. Bachtis, P. Baillon, A.H. Ball, D. Barney, A. Benaglia, J. Bendavid, L. Benhabib, J.F. Benitez, G. Bianchi, P. Bloch, A. Bocci, A. Bonato, O. Bondu, C. Botta, H. Breuker, T. Camporesi, G. Cerminara, S. Colafranceschi, M. D’Alfonso,
D. d’Enterria, A. Dabrowski, A. David, F. De Guio, A. De Roeck, S. De Visscher, E. Di Marco, M. Dobson, M. Dordevic, B. Dorney, N. Dupont-Sagorin, A. Elliott-Peisert, J. Eugster, G. Franzoni, W. Funk, D. Gigi, K. Gill, D. Giordano, M. Girone, F. Glege, R. Guida, S. Gundacker, M. Guthoff, J. Hammer, M. Hansen, P. Harris, J. Hegeman, V. Innocente, P. Janot, M.J. Kortelainen, K. Kousouris, K. Krajczer, P. Lecoq, C. Lourenço, N. Magini, L. Malgeri, M. Mannelli, J. Marrouche, L. Masetti, F. Meijers, S. Mersi, E. Meschi, F. Moortgat, S. Morovic, M. Mulders, S. Orfanelli, L. Orsini, L. Pape, E. Perez, A. Petrilli, G. Petrucciani, A. Pfeiffer, M. Pimiä, D. Piparo, M. Plagge, A. Racz, G. Rolandi, M. Rovere, H. Sakulin, C. Schäfer, C. Schwick, A. Sharma, P. Siegrist, P. Silva, M. Simon, P. Sphicas, D. Spiga, J. Steggemann, B. Stieger, M. Stoye, Y. Takahashi, D. Treille, A. Tsirou, G.I. Veres, N. Wardle, H.K. Wöhri, H. Wollny, W.D. Żeuner

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

Institute for Particle Physics, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
F. Bachmair, L. Bärni, L. Bianchini, M.A. Buchmann, B. Casal, G. Dissertori, M. Dittmar, M. Donegà, M. Dünser, P. Eller, C. Grab, D. Hits, J. Hoss, G. Kasieczka, W. Listermann, B. Mangano, A.C. Marini, M. Marzocchi, P. Martinez Ruiz del Arbol, M. Masciovecchio, D. Meister, N. Mohr, P. Musella, F. Nesi-Tedaldi, F. Pandolfi, F. Pauss, L. Perrozzi, M. Peruzzi, M. Quittnat, L. Rebane, M. Rossini, A. Starodumov, M. Takahashi, K. Theofilatos, R. Wallny, H.A. Weber

Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland
C. Amsler, M.F. Canelli, V. Chiochia, A. De Cosa, A. Hinzmman, T. Hreus, B. Kilminster, C. Lange, J. Ngadiuba, D. Pinna, P. Robmann, F.J. Ronga, S. Taroni, Y. Yang

National Central University, Chung-Li, Taiwan
M. Cardaci, K.H. Chen, C. Ferro, C.M. Kuo, W. Lin, Y.J. Lu, R. Volpe, S.S. Yu

National Taiwan University (NTU), Taipei, Taiwan
P. Chang, Y.H. Chang, Y. Chao, K.F. Chen, P.H. Chen, C. Dietz, U. Grundler, W.-S. Hou, Y.F. Liu, R.-S. Lu, M. Miñana Moya, E. Petrakou, J.F. Tsai, Y.M. Tzeng, R. Wilken

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

Cukurova University, Adana, Turkey
A. Adiguzel, M.N. Bakirci, S. Cerci, D. Dozen, I. Dumanoglu, E. Eskut, S. Girgis, G. Gokbulut, Y. Guler, I. Gurpinar, I. Hos, E.E. Kangal, A. Kayis Topaksu, G. Onengut, K. Ozdemir, S. Ozturk, A. Polatdo, D. Sunar Cerci, B. Tali, H. Topakli, M. Vergili, C. Zorbilmez

Middle East Technical University, Physics Department, Ankara, Turkey
I.V. Akin, B. Bilin, S. Bilmis, H. Gamsizkan, B. Isildak, G. Karapinar, K. Ocalan, S. Sekmen, U.E. Surat, M. Yalvac, M. Zeyrek

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey
E.A. Albayrak, E. Gülmez, M. Kaya, O. Kaya, T. Yetkin

Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey
K. Çankocak, E.I. Vardarlı
National Scientific Center, Kharkov Institute of Physics and Technology, Kharkov, Ukraine
L. Levchuk, P. Sorokin

University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom
J.J. Brooke, E. Clement, D. Cussans, H. Flacher, J. Goldstein, M. Grimes, G.P. Heath, H.F. Heath, J. Jacob, L. Kreczko, C. Lucas, Z. Meng, D.M. Newbold, S. Paramesvaran, A. Poll, T. Sakuma, S. Seif El Nasr-storey, S. Senkin, V.J. Smith

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

Imperial College, London, United Kingdom
M. Baber, R. Bainbridge, O. Buchmuller, D. Burton, D. Colling, N. Cripps, P. Dauncey, G. Davies, A. De Wit, M. Della Negra, P. Dunne, A. Elwood, W. Ferguson, J. Fulcher, D. Futyan, G. Hall, G. Iles, M. Jarvis, G. Karapostoli, M. Kenzie, R. Lane, R. Lucas, A.-M. Magnan, S. Malik, B. Mathias, J. Nash, A. Nikitenko, J. Pela, M. Pesaresi, K. Petridis, D.M. Raymond, S. Rogerson, A. Rose, C. Seez, P. Sharp, A. Tapper, M. Vazquez Acosta, T. Virdee, S.C. Zenz

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

Baylor University, Waco, USA
J. Dittmann, K. Hatakeyama, A. Kasmi, H. Liu, N. Pastika, T. Scarborough, Z. Wu

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA
O. Charaf, S.I. Cooper, C. Henderson, P. Rumerio

Boston University, USA
A. Avetisyan, T. Bose, C. Fantasia, P. Lawson, D. Rankin, C. Richardson, J. Rohlf, J. St. John, L. Sulak, D. Zou

Brown University, Providence, USA
J. Alimena, E. Berry, S. Bhattacharya, G. Christopher, D. Cutts, Z. Demiragli, N. Dhingra, A. Ferapontov, A. Garabedian, U. Heintz, E. Laird, G. Landsberg, Z. Mao, M. Narain, S. Sagir, T. Sinthuprasith, T. Speer, J. Swanson

University of California, Davis, Davis, USA
R. Breedon, G. Breto, M. Calderon De La Barca Sanchez, S. Chauhan, M. Chertok, J. Conway, R. Conway, P.T. Cox, R. Erbacher, M. Gardner, W. Ko, R. Lander, M. Mulhearn, D. Pellett, J. Pilot, F. Ricci-Tam, S. Shalhout, J. Smith, M. Squires, D. Stolp, M. Tripathi, S. Wilbur, R. Yohay

University of California, Los Angeles, USA
R. Cousins, P. Everaerts, C. Farrell, J. Hauser, M. Ignatenko, G. Rakness, E. Takasugi, V. Valuev, M. Weber

University of California, Riverside, Riverside, USA
K. Burt, R. Clare, J. Ellison, J.W. Gary, G. Hanson, J. Heilman, M. Ivova Rikova, P. Jandir, E. Kennedy, F. Lacroix, O.R. Long, A. Luthra, M. Malberti, M. Olmedo Negrete, A. Shrinivas, S. Sumowidagdo, S. Wimpenny
University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, USA
J.G. Branson, G.B. Cerati, S. Cittolin, R.T. D’Agnoło, A. Holzner, R. Kelley, D. Klein, J. Letts, I. Macneill, D. Olivito, S. Padhi, C. Palmer, M. Pieri, M. Sani, V. Sharma, S. Simon, M. Tadel, Y. Tu, A. Vartak, C. Welke, F. Würthwein, A. Yagil, G. Zevi Della Porta

University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, USA
D. Barge, J. Bradmiller-Feld, C. Campagnari, T. Danielson, A. Dishaw, V. Dutta, K. Flowers, M. Franco Sevilla, P. Geffert, C. George, F. Golf, L. Gouskos, J. Incandela, C. Justus, N. Mccoll, S.D. Mullin, J. Richman, D. Stuart, W. To, C. West, J. Yoo

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA
A. Apresyan, A. Bornheim, J. Bunn, Y. Chen, J. Duarte, A. Mott, H.B. Newman, C. Pena, M. Pierini, M. Spiropulu, J.R. Vlimant, R. Wilkinson, S. Xie, R.Y. Zhu

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA
V. Azzolini, A. Calamba, B. Carlson, T. Ferguson, Y. Iiyama, M. Paulini, J. Russ, H. Vogel, I. Vorobiev

University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, USA
J.P. Cumalat, W.T. Ford, A. Gaz, M. Krohn, E. Luiggi Lopez, U. Nauenberg, J.G. Smith, K. Stenson, S.R. Wagner

Cornell University, Ithaca, USA
J. Alexander, A. Chatterjee, J. Chaves, J. Chu, S. Dittmer, N. Eggert, N. Mirman, G. Nicolas Kaufman, J.R. Patterson, A. Ryd, E. Salvati, L. Skinnari, W. Sun, W.D. Teo, J. Thom, J. Thompson, J. Tucker, Y. Weng, L. Winstrom, P. Wittich

Fairfield University, Fairfield, USA
D. Winn

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, USA
S. Abdullin, M. Albrow, J. Anderson, G. Apollinari, L.A.T. Bauerdick, A. Beretvas, J. Berryhill, P.C. Bhat, G. Bolla, K. Burkett, J.N. Butler, H.W.K. Cheung, F. Chlebana, S. Cihangir, V.D. Elvira, I. Fisk, J. Freeman, E. Gottschalk, L. Gray, D. Green, S. Grünendahl, O. Gutsche, J. Hanlon, D. Hare, R.M. Harris, J. Hirschauer, B. Hooberman, S. Jindariani, M. Johnson, U. Joshi, B. Klima, B. Kreis, S. Kwan1, J. Linacre, D. Lincoln, R. Lipton, T. Liu, R. Lopes De Sá, J. Lykken, K. Maeshima, J.M. Marraffino, V.I. Martinez Outschoorn, S. Maruyama, D. Mason, P. McBride, P. Merkel, K. Mishra, S. Mrenna, S. Nahn, C. Newman-Holmes, V. O’Dell, O. Prokofyev, E. Sexton-Kennedy, A. Soha, W.J. Spalding, L. Spiegel, L. Taylor, S. Tkaczyk, N.V. Tran, L. Uplegger, E.W. Vaandering, R. Vidal, A. Whitbeck, J. Whitmore, F. Yang

University of Florida, Gainesville, USA
D. Acosta, P. Avery, P. Bortignon, D. Bourilkov, M. Carver, D. Curry, S. Das, M. De Gruttola, G.P. Di Giovanni, R.D. Field, M. Fisher, I.K. Furic, J. Hugon, J. Königsgberg, A. Korytov, T. Kypreos, J.F. Low, K. Matchev, H. Mei, P. Milenovic56, G. Mitselmakher, L. Muniz, A. Rinkevicius, L. Shchutska, M. Snowball, D. Sperka, J. Yelton

Florida International University, Miami, USA
S. Hewamanange, S. Linn, P. Markowitz, G. Martinez, J.L. Rodriguez

Florida State University, Tallahassee, USA
A. Ackert, J.R. Adams, T. Adams, A. Askew, J. Bochenek, B. Diamond, J. Haas, S. Hagopian, V. Hagopian, K.F. Johnson, H. Prosper, V. Veeraraghavan, M. Weinberg
Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, USA
M.M. Baarmand, M. Hohlmann, H. Kalakhety, F. Yumiceva

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Chicago, USA
M.R. Adams, L. Apanasevich, D. Berry, R.R. Betts, I. Bucinskaite, R. Cavanaugh, O. Evdokimov, L. Gauthier, C.E. Gerber, D.J. Hofman, P. Kurt, C. O’Brien, I.D. Sandoval Gonzalez, C. Silkworth, P. Turner, N. Varelas, M. Zakaria

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA
B. Bilki, W. Clarida, K. Dilsiz, M. Haytmyradov, V. Khristenko, J.-P. Merlo, H. Mermerkaya, A. Mestvirishvili, A. Moeller, J. Nachtman, H. Ogul, Y. Onel, F. Ozok, A. Penzo, R. Rahmat, S. Sen, P. Tan, E. Tiras, J. Wetzel, K. Yi

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA
I. Anderson, B.A. Barnett, B. Blumenfeld, S. Bolognesi, D. Fehling, A.V. Gritsan, P. Maksimovic, C. Martin, M. Swartz, M. Xiao

The University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA
P. Baringer, A. Bean, G. Benelli, C. Bruner, J. Gray, R.P. Kenny III, D. Majumder, M. Malek, M. Murray, D. Noonan, S. Sanders, J. Sekaric, R. Stringer, Q. Wang, J.S. Wood

Kansas State University, Manhattan, USA
I. Chakaberia, A. Ivanov, K. Kaadze, S. Khalil, M. Makouski, Y. Maravin, L.K. Saini, N. Skhirtladze, I. Svintradze

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

University of Maryland, College Park, USA
C. Anelli, A. Baden, A. Belloni, B. Calvert, S.C. Eno, J.A. Gomez, N.J. Hadley, S. Jabeen, R.G. Kellogg, T. Kolberg, Y. Lu, A.C. Mignerey, K. Pedro, Y.H. Shin, A. Skuja, M.B. Tonjes, S.C. Tonwar

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA
A. Apyan, R. Barbieri, A. Baty, K. Bierwagen, S. Brandt, W. Busza, I.A. Cali, L. Di Matteo, G. Gomez Ceballos, M. Goncharov, D. Gulhan, M. Klute, Y.S. Lai, Y.-J. Lee, A. Levin, P.D. Luckey, X. Niu, C. Paus, D. Ralph, C. Roland, G. Roland, G.S.F. Stephans, K. Sumorok, D. Velicanu, J. Veverka, T.W. Wang, B. Wyslouch, M. Yang, M. Zanetti, V. Zhukova

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA
B. Dahmes, A. Gude, S.C. Kao, K. Klapoetke, Y. Kubota, J. Mans, S. Nourbakhsh, R. Rusack, A. Singovsky, N. Tambe, J. Turkewitz

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

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, USA
E. Avdeeva, K. Bloom, S. Bose, D.R. Claes, A. Dominguez, R. Gonzalez Suarez, J. Keller, D. Knowlton, I. Kravchenko, J. Lazo-Flores, F. Meier, F. Ratnikov, G.R. Snow, M. Zvada

State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, USA
J. Dolen, A. Godshalk, I. Iashvili, A. Kharchilava, A. Kumar, S. Rappoccio

Northeastern University, Boston, USA
G. Alverson, E. Barberis, D. Baumgartel, M. Chasco, A. Massironi, D.M. Morse, D. Nash, T. Orimoto, D. Trocino, R.-J. Wang, D. Wood, J. Zhang
Northwestern University, Evanston, USA
K.A. Hahn, A. Kubik, N. Mucia, N. Odell, B. Pollack, A. Pozdnyakov, M. Schmitt, S. Stoynev, K. Sung, M. Trovato, M. Velasco, S. Won

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, USA
A. Brinkerhoff, K.M. Chan, A. Drozdetskiy, M. Hildreth, C. Jessop, D.J. Karmgard, N. Kellams, K. Lannon, S. Lynch, N. Marinelli, C. Mueller, Y. Musienko, T. Pearson, M. Planer, R. Ruchti, G. Smith, N. Valls, M. Wayne, M. Wolf, A. Woodard

The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA
L. Antonelli, J. Brinson, B. Bylsma, L.S. Durkin, S. Flowers, A. Hart, C. Hill, R. Hughes, K. Kotov, Y. Ling, W. Luo, D. Puigh, M. Rodenburg, B.L. Winer, H. Wolfe, H.W. Wulsin

Princeton University, Princeton, USA
O. Driga, P. Elmer, J. Hardenbrook, P. Hebda, S.A. Koay, P. Lujan, D. Marlow, T. Medvedeva, M. Mooney, J. Olsen, P. Piroué, X. Quan, H. Saka, D. Stickland, C. Tully, J.S. Werner, A. Zuranski

University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, USA
E. Brownson, S. Malik, H. Mendez, J.E. Ramirez Vargas

Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA
V.E. Barnes, D. Benedetti, D. Bortoletto, L. Gutay, Z. Hu, M.K. Jha, M. Jones, K. Jung, M. Kress, N. Leonardo, D.H. Miller, N. Neumeister, F. Primavera, B.C. Radburn-Smith, X. Shi, I. Shipsey, D. Silvers, A. Svyatkovskiy, F. Wang, W. Xie, L. Xu, J. Zablocki

Purdue University Calumet, Hammond, USA
N. Parashar, J. Stupak

Rice University, Houston, USA
A. Adair, B. Akgun, K.M. Ecklund, F.J.M. Geurts, W. Li, B. Michlin, B.P. Padley, R. Redjimi, J. Roberts, J. Zabel

University of Rochester, Rochester, USA
B. Betchart, A. Bodek, P. de Barbaro, R. Demina, Y. Eshaq, T. Ferbel, M. Galanti, A. Garcia-Bellido, P. Goldenzweig, J. Han, A. Harel, O. Hindrichs, A. Khukhunaishvili, S. Korjenevski, G. Petrillo, M. Verzetti, D. Vishnevskiy

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

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Piscataway, USA
S. Arora, A. Barker, J.P. Chou, C. Contreras-Campana, E. Contreras-Campana, D. Duggan, D. Ferencek, Y. Gershtein, R. Gray, E. Halliadakis, D. Hidas, E. Hughes, S. Kaplan, R. Kunnawalkam Elayavalli, A. Lath, S. Panwalkar, M. Park, S. Salur, S. Schnetzer, D. Sheffield, S. Somalwar, R. Stone, S. Thomas, P. Thomassen, M. Walker

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA
K. Rose, S. Spanier, A. York

Texas A&M University, College Station, USA
O. Bouhali, A. Castaneda Hernandez, M. Dalchenko, M. De Mattia, S. Dildick, R. Eusebi, W. Flanagan, J. Gilmore, T. Kamon, V. Khotilovich, V. Krutelyov, R. Montalvo, I. Osipenkov, Y. Pakhotin, R. Patel, A. Perloff, J. Roe, A. Rose, A. Safonov, I. Suarez, A. Tatarinov, K.A. Ulmer
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, USA
N. Akchurin, C. Cowden, J. Damgov, C. Dragoiu, P.R. Dudero, J. Faulkner, K. Kovitanggoon, S. Kunori, S.W. Lee, T. Libeiro, I. Volobouev

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

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

Wayne State University, Detroit, USA
C. Clarke, R. Harr, P.E. Karchin, C. Kottachchi Kankanamge Don, P. Lamichhane, J. Sturdy

University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA
D.A. Belknap, D. Carlsmit, M. Cepeda, S. Dasu, L. Dodd, S. Duric, E. Friis, R. Hall-Wilton, M. Herndon, A. Hervé, P. Klubbers, A. Lanaro, C. Lazaridis, A. Levine, R. Loveless, A. Mohapatra, I. Ojalvo, T. Perry, G.A. Pierro, G. Polese, I. Ross, T. Sarangi, A. Savin, W.H. Smith, D. Taylor, C. Vuosalo, N. Woods

†: Deceased
1: Also at Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria
2: Also at CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland
3: Also at Institut Pluridisciplinaire Hubert Curien, Université de Strasbourg, Université de Haute Alsace Mulhouse, CNRS/IN2P3, Strasbourg, France
4: Also at National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia
5: Also at Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
6: Also at Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, Brazil
7: Also at Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, Ecole Polytechnique, IN2P3-CNRS, Palaiseau, France
8: Also at Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium
9: Also at Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia
10: Also at Suez University, Suez, Egypt
11: Also at Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt
12: Also at Fayoum University, El-Fayoum, Egypt
13: Also at British University in Egypt, Cairo, Egypt
14: Now at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt
15: Also at Université de Haute Alsace, Mulhouse, France
16: Also at Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus, Germany
17: Also at Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary
18: Also at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary
19: Also at University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary
20: Also at University of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India
21: Now at King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
22: Also at University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka
23: Also at Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran
24: Also at University of Tehran, Department of Engineering Science, Tehran, Iran
25: Also at Plasma Physics Research Center, Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran
26: Also at Laboratori Nazionali di Legnaro dell’INFN, Legnaro, Italy
27: Also at Università degli Studi di Siena, Siena, Italy
28: Also at Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) - IN2P3, Paris, France
29: Also at Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA
30: Also at International Islamic University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
31: Also at Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia
32: Also at St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University, St. Petersburg, Russia
33: Also at National Research Nuclear University 'Moscow Engineering Physics Institute' (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia
34: Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA
35: Also at Faculty of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
36: Also at Facoltà Ingegneria, Università di Roma, Roma, Italy
37: Also at Scuola Normale e Sezione dell'INFN, Pisa, Italy
38: Also at University of Athens, Athens, Greece
39: Also at Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia
40: Also at Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics, Bern, Switzerland
41: Also at Gaziosmanpasa University, Tokat, Turkey
42: Also at Adiyaman University, Adiyaman, Turkey
43: Also at Mersin University, Mersin, Turkey
44: Also at Cag University, Mersin, Turkey
45: Also at Piri Reis University, Istanbul, Turkey
46: Also at Anadolu University, Eskisehir, Turkey
47: Also at Ozyegin University, Istanbul, Turkey
48: Also at Izmir Institute of Technology, Izmir, Turkey
49: Also at Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya, Turkey
50: Also at Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey
51: Also at Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey
52: Also at Kafkas University, Kars, Turkey
53: Also at Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey
54: Also at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
55: Also at School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom
56: Also at University of Belgrade, Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia
57: Also at Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, USA
58: Also at Erzincan University, Erzincan, Turkey
59: Also at Texas A&M University at Qatar, Doha, Qatar
60: Also at Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea