Measurement of differential $t\bar{t}$ production cross sections in $p\bar{p}$ collisions

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The production of top quark-antiquark pair events in $p\bar{p}$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV is studied as a function of the transverse momentum and absolute value of the rapidity of the top quarks as well as of the invariant mass of the $t\bar{t}$ pair. We select events containing an isolated lepton, a large imbalance in transverse momentum, and four or more jets with at least one jet identified to originate from a $b$ quark. The data sample corresponds to 9.7 fb$^{-1}$ of integrated luminosity recorded with the D0 detector during Run II of the Fermilab Tevatron Collider. Observed differential cross sections are consistent with standard model predictions.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The top quark, discovered by the CDF and D0 experiments in 1995 [1, 2], is the heaviest of all elementary particles in the standard model (SM) with a mass of $173.2 \pm 0.9$ GeV [3]. The production of top quark-antiquark pairs ($t\bar{t}$) at the Fermilab Tevatron Collider is dominated by the quark-antiquark ($q\bar{q}$) annihilation process. The measurement of $t\bar{t}$ differential production cross sections in $p\bar{p}$ collisions at the Tevatron provides a direct test of quantum chromodynamics (QCD), the theory of the strong interactions. Measurements of differential cross sections deepen our understanding of QCD, and provide important information that can improve the simulation of QCD processes. A precise modeling of QCD is vital in many searches for contributions from new phenomena, where differential top quark cross sections are used to set constraints on new sources of physics. A detailed understanding of top quark production is also needed for measurements or searches in the quark-antiquark ($q\bar{q}$) annihilation process.

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tion+jets decay channel, where the lepton (l) refers to either an electron or a muon. This channel corresponds to t\bar{t} \rightarrow W^+lW^-\bar{t} decays, where one of the two W bosons decays leptonically (W \rightarrow l\nu), and the other hadronically (W \rightarrow q\bar{q}'). This decay channel includes small contributions from electrons and muons stemming from the decay of \tau leptons (t \rightarrow Wb \rightarrow \tau\nu-b \rightarrow l\nu\nu\nu-b). The events are required to contain in addition to the lepton at least four jets and an imbalance in transverse momentum E_T., as discussed in section IV. The measurement of E_T is based on calorimetry, not including charged track momenta.

II. MONTE CARLO SIMULATION AND QCD PREDICTIONS

Monte Carlo (MC) events are used to model the reconstruction of the observables, to estimate systematic uncertainties associated with the measurements, and for comparisons to data. Different MC event generators are used to implement hard processes based on leading-order (LO) and NLO QCD calculations are complemented with parton shower evolution. To simulate detector effects, generated events (including hadronization) are passed through a detailed simulation of the D0 detector response based on GEANT [15]. To account for effects from additional overlapping pp interactions, “zero bias” events are selected randomly in collider data and overlaid on the fully simulated MC events.

The t\bar{t} samples are generated with MC@NLO version 3.4 [16], which includes the production of off-shell top quarks by taking into account their finite width or ALPGEN version 2.11 [17], which produces only on-shell top quarks. Single top quark production (qg' \rightarrow tb, q'g \rightarrow tgb) is modeled using COMPHEP [18]. For events generated with MC@NLO, the parton showering is performed with HERWIG version 6.510 [19], whereas for ALPGEN and COMPHEP parton showering is implemented by PYTHIA version 6.409 [20]. In the following the term “scale” and the symbol \mu refer to the renormalization and factorization scales, which are assumed to be equal and employed in the generation of specific processes. The parton density functions (PDF), and other choices made in generating MC events are summarized in Table I For all the MCs involving the generation of top quarks a top quark mass of m_t = 172.5 GeV is used. The difference from the result of the current Tevatron top quark mass combination of 173.2 GeV [21] has negligible impact on the analysis and is treated as a systematic uncertainty (see Sec. VIII).

Several QCD predictions for differential t\bar{t} cross sections have been calculated at higher orders than those included in the MC generators. They use approximate NNLO calculations based on next-to-next-to-leading logarithm (NNLL) resummation for m_t = 173 GeV [14, 22], and m_t = 172.5 GeV [24]. Both use the MSTW2008NNLO PDF [25]. The scale used to calculate the p_T^{top} and |y^{top}| differential distribution is m_t. Employing m_t as the scale for calculating the m(t\bar{t}) distribution leads to large and negative NLO corrections that result in negative differential cross sections at NLO, especially at large m(t\bar{t}). In Ref. [24], the m(t\bar{t}) distribution is calculated using the scale m(t\bar{t}), which avoids this issue, but leads to a 7.7% lower inclusive cross section. When comparing to D0 data, we normalize the total cross section of the calculations in Ref. [24] for the p_T^{top}, |y^{top}| and m(t\bar{t}) distributions to match the fully resummed NNLL at NNLO QCD calculation (using m_t = 172.5 GeV and the MSTW2008NNLO PDF), which finds \sigma_{tot} = 7.24^{+0.23}_{-0.24}(scale + pdf) pb [26]. The total cross section of the approximate NNLO calculation as in Ref. [14, 22] is calculated from the p_T^{top} distribution and yields 7.08^{+0.20}_{-0.24}(scale)^{-0.36}(PDF) pb. This calculation is, in contrast to the calculations in Ref. [24], not re-normalized to match the fully resummed NNLL at NNLO QCD.

The main background to t\bar{t} production is W+jets production. It consists of events where one W boson is produced via an electroweak interaction, together with additional partons from QCD processes. The W+jets final state can be split into four subsamples according to parton flavor: Wbb+jets, Wc\bar{c}+jets, Wc+jets and W+light jets, where light refers to gluons, u, d or s quarks. The LO ALPGEN cross sections are corrected for NLO effects as provided by MCFM [27]: the W+jets cross section is multiplied by 1.30, and the Wbb+jets and Wc\bar{c}+jets (Wc+jets) cross sections are multiplied by an additional 1.47 (1.27). The p_T^{top} distribution of the W boson in MC simulation is reweighted to match the p_T^{top} distribution of the Z boson measured in D0 data [28] multiplied by the SM ratio of these two distributions, which was calculated at NLO using RESBOS [29].

Other backgrounds include events from Z/\gamma^{*}+jets production, which include Z bosons decaying to electron, muon or tau pairs. The LO ALPGEN predictions are similarly corrected using the NLO calculation of MCFM. The Z/\gamma^{*}+jets cross section is multiplied by 1.30, and the

| Process | Generator | Scale, \mu | PDF |
|---------|-----------|------------|-----|
| t\bar{t} | ALPGEN | \sqrt{\sum (m^2 + p_T^2)} | CTEQ6L1 |
| t\bar{t} | MC@NLO | \sqrt{\sum (m^2 + p_T^2)} | CTEQ6M |
| W+jets | ALPGEN | m_T + \sqrt{\sum (m^2 + p_T^2)} | CTEQ6L1 |
| Z/\gamma^{*}+jets | ALPGEN | m_T + \sqrt{\sum (m^2 + p_T^2)} | CTEQ6L1 |
| Diboson | PYTHIA | m_T | CTEQ6L1 |
| single top (s-channel) | COMPHEP | m_t/2 | CTEQ6M |
| single top (t-channel) | COMPHEP | m_t/2 | CTEQ6M |
Zc ¯c + jets and Zb ¯b + jets cross sections by an additional 1.67 and 1.52, respectively. The simulated $p_T$ distribution of the Z boson is reweighted to match the measured $p_T$ distribution in $Z \to \ell\ell$.2

The single top quark background consists of s- and t-channel single top quark production, which are normalized to the NLO cross sections of 1.04 and 2.26 pb30, respectively. As the single top quark background yields only a few events passing all selection criteria described later, no effects are considered from the dependence of this background on $m_t$.

Diboson production ($WW$, $WZ$ and $ZZ$ bosons) processes are normalized to NLO cross sections, calculated with mcfm, of 11.62 pb, 3.25 pb and 1.33 pb, respectively.

III. THE D0 DETECTOR

The D0 detector31 consists of several subdetectors designed for identification and reconstruction of the products of $p\bar{p}$ collisions. A silicon microstrip tracker (SMT)32,33 and central fiber tracker surround the interaction region for pseudorapidities2 $|\eta| < 3$ and $|\eta| < 2.5$, respectively. These elements of the central tracking system are located within a superconducting solenoidal magnet generating a 1.9 T field, providing measurements for reconstructing event vertices and trajectories of charged particles. The SMT allows for a precision of 40 μm or better for the reconstructed primary $p\bar{p}$ interaction vertex (PV) in the plane transverse to the beam direction. The impact parameter of typical charged particle trajectories relative to the PV is determined with a precision between 20 and 50 μm depending on the number of SMT hits and particle momenta. The impact parameter and its measurement uncertainty are key components of lifetime-based identification of jets containing b quarks34. Particle energies are measured using a liquid argon sampling calorimeter that is segmented into a central calorimeter covering $|\eta| < 1.1$, and two end calorimeters extending the coverage to $|\eta| = 4.2$. Outside of the calorimetry, trajectories of muons are measured using three layers of tracking detectors and scintillation trigger counters, and an iron toroidal magnet generating a 1.8 T field between the first two layers. Plastic scintillator arrays are located in front of the end-calorimeter cryostats to measure the luminosity35.

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2 The pseudorapidity $\eta = -\ln[\tan(\theta/2)]$ is measured relative to the center of the detector, and $\theta$ is the polar angle with respect to the proton beam direction.

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IV. EVENT SELECTION AND SAMPLE COMPOSITION

This analysis uses all the data recorded by the D0 detector at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV. After applying data quality requirements, the data corresponds to an integrated luminosity of 9.7 fb$^{-1}$. The trigger selects $\ell$-jets events by requiring at least one lepton (electron or muon) or a lepton and a jet with an efficiency of 95% or 80% for $t\bar{t}$ events containing an electron or muon candidate, respectively.

Accepted events must have a reconstructed PV within 60 cm of the center of the detector along the beam axis, one lepton with transverse momentum $p_T > 20$ GeV and $|\eta| < 1.1$ (for electrons) or $|\eta| < 2$ (for muons), and $E_T > 20$ GeV. In addition, leptons are required to originate from the PV by demanding $|\Delta z(\ell, PV)| < 1$ cm, where $z$ is defined along the proton beam direction. A distance $\Delta R = \sqrt{\Delta \eta^2 + \Delta \phi^2}$ between a lepton and a jet of $\Delta R(\ell, \text{closest jet}) > 0.5$ is required to ensure that leptons are isolated36,37. For the $\mu$+jets sample upper limits on the transverse mass of the reconstructed W boson of $M_W^T < 250$ GeV and $E_T < 250$ GeV are applied to remove events in data with misreconstructed muon $p_T$. To further remove such events, we employ an additional requirement on the significance of the track curvature $S_c$, which is defined as the ratio of the curvature, $\kappa$, and the expected uncertainty on $\kappa$ measured for the track associated with the muon.

To optimize the background rejection we employ two selection requirements with different slopes in the azimuthal ($\Delta \phi$) vs. $S_c$ plane: $(-70 + 25.47 \cdot \Delta \phi(\mu, E_T)) < |S_c|$ and $(876 + 4.38 \cdot \Delta \phi(\mu, E_T)) < |S_c|$. A minimum separation in azimuth of $\Delta \phi(\ell, E_T) > 0.5$ is imposed between the momentum of the lepton and the direction of the missing momentum, to reduce multi-jet background caused by the misidentification of a jet as a lepton and the consequent impact on the accompanying $E_T$. Further reduction of the multi-jet background is achieved by also requiring a minimum separation in azimuth between the isolated lepton and $E_T$: $\Delta \phi(e, E_T) > 2.2 - 0.045 \cdot E_T$/GeV and $\Delta \phi(\mu, E_T) > 2.1 - 0.035 \cdot E_T$/GeV. After correcting the energy of the jet to the particle level35 at least four jets with $p_T > 20$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.5$ are required. The jet with highest $p_T$ is also required to have $p_T > 40$ GeV.

Due to the high instantaneous luminosity provided by the Tevatron, additional $p\bar{p}$ collisions occur within the same bunch crossing. To accurately model their effects, events from randomly selected beam crossings with the same instantaneous luminosity are overlaid on the simulated events, which are reweighted to match the luminosity profile observed in data. To suppress jets from these additional collisions, jets are required to contain two tracks consistent with originating from the PV. At least one of the jets must be selected as likely to originate from a $b$ quark ($b$ tagged) using a multivariate discriminant (MVD)34. The discriminant
combines variables that characterize the presence and properties of secondary vertices and tracks within jets. The MVD identification of jets containing b quarks has an efficiency of approximately 60%, with a light quark misidentification rate of approximately 1.2%. Events containing more than one isolated muon or electron, which satisfy the lepton requirements discussed above, are rejected.

Background contributions are categorized into instrumental background and irreducible background from processes with final states similar to $t\bar{t}$. Instrumental background arises either from $t\bar{t}$ events where both W bosons decay leptonically, but only one of the leptons is identified or within the defined acceptance, or from multijet processes where a jet is misidentified as an electron in the $e+\text{jets}$ channel, or a muon originating from the semileptonic decay of a heavy hadron appears to be isolated in the $\mu+\text{jets}$ channel. Data-driven \cite{39,40} and MC methods are employed to model the instrumental background. The irreducible background processes are estimated using MC, as described in Sec. \ref{sec:measurement}. Most of this background arises from $W+\text{jets}$ production, and to constrain it we use the $\ell+2$ jets and $\ell+3$ jets data (dominated by $W+\text{jets}$ production) in addition to the $\ell+\geq4$ jets sample (dominated by $t\bar{t}$ production). We determine the sample composition from a simultaneous fit to the $t\bar{t}$ cross section and the heavy-flavor contribution originating from $W+\text{jets}$. The fit is made to the MVD $b$ identification output distribution and yields a $W+\text{jets}$ heavy-flavor scale factor $\sigma_{\text{WHF}} = 0.89 \pm 0.08$ to be applied to the $Wb\bar{b}+\text{jets}$ and $Wc\bar{c}+\text{jets}$ contributions in addition to the factors discussed in Sec. \ref{sec:measurement}. Similar procedures were used in previous measurements by D0 \cite{41}. The simultaneous fit to the $\ell+2$ jets, $\ell+3$ jets and $\ell+\geq4$ jets samples yields a $t\bar{t}$ cross section of $\sigma_{t\bar{t}} = 8.00 \pm 0.40$ (stat.) pb. We verified that there is no need for an additional scale factor to accommodate the $Z/\gamma^*+\text{jets}$ heavy-flavor contributions $\sigma_{\text{WHF}}$ by using a modified version of the simultaneous fit taking into account $\sigma_{\text{WHF}}$ instead of $\sigma_{\text{WHF}}$. The $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ serves as an initial value of the $t\bar{t}$ cross section in the $t\bar{t}$ differential cross section measurement using inclusive four-jet data.

The total inclusive $t\bar{t}$ cross section is also calculated using only events with at least four jets from the $\sigma/\sigma_{\text{top}}$ measurement by integrating all bins of the cross section, as presented later in Secs. \ref{sec:results} and \ref{sec:systematics}. This yields a slightly larger, but compatible, value of $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}(p\bar{p} \rightarrow t\bar{t}) = 8.3 \pm 0.7$ (stat.) $\pm 0.8$ (syst.) pb. This measured cross section is used to normalize the $t\bar{t}$ predictions in the figures presented below.

Figures \ref{fig:inclusive} and \ref{fig:exclusive} demonstrate, respectively, the quality of the modeling of the selected events in the $e+\text{jets}$ and $\mu+\text{jets}$ sample with the background and signal contributions, using the measured inclusive $t\bar{t}$ cross section of 8.5 pb. The last bin in the histograms is used as an overflow bin. The expected composition of the sample after the final selection is given in Table \ref{tab:signal}.

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\caption{Expected number of events with at least four jets due to each process (uncertainties are statistical). Events in the dilepton decay channel are denoted by $\ell\ell$.}
\begin{tabular}{l|cc}
\hline
Process & $\mu+\text{jets}$ & $e+\text{jets}$ \\
\hline
Multijet & $3.1 \pm 10.0$ & $75.1 \pm 13.0$ \\
$W+\text{jets}$ & $164.9 \pm 3.1$ & $148.8 \pm 2.6$ \\
Diboson & $9.1 \pm 0.3$ & $10.5 \pm 0.3$ \\
$Z/\gamma^*+\text{jets}$ & $11.9 \pm 0.4$ & $12.4 \pm 0.4$ \\
Single top & $16.1 \pm 0.2$ & $21.8 \pm 0.3$ \\
t$\bar{t}$, $\ell\ell$ & $22.6 \pm 0.2$ & $33.5 \pm 0.3$ \\
$\sum$ bgs & $254.4 \pm 10.5$ & $302.1 \pm 13.3$ \\
t$\bar{t}$, $\ell+\text{jets}$ & $838.7 \pm 3.2$ & $1088.7 \pm 3.8$ \\
$\sum$ (sig + bgs) & $1093.1 \pm 11.0$ & $1390.8 \pm 13.8$ \\
Data & $1137$ & $1403$ \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

\section{Measurement Technique}

Measurements involving top quarks benefit from the very short lifetime of the $t$ quark, since it decays before it can hadronize. Effects of hadronization and QCD corrections are thus reduced. Moreover, at Tevatron energies the transverse momentum of $t\bar{t}$ pairs is almost always smaller than $m(t\bar{t})$ and production is central, so that almost the entire phase space of $t\bar{t}$ production is within the detector acceptance. Corrections to measured quantities as well as their uncertainties are therefore small leading to well measured top-quark cross sections.

The differential cross-sections are defined for parton-level top quarks including off-shell effects and are corrected for detector and QCD effects using a regularized matrix unfolding procedure \cite{43,44}. This procedure reduces the influence of model dependencies in the cross section determination and introduces correlations among the bins used in the measurement. These correlations are minimized by regularization. Unfolding event migrations relies on a migration matrix ($A$), which describes the relation between the generated distribution of a variable ($\vec{x}_{\text{gen}}$) and its reconstructed distribution ($\vec{y}_{\text{rec}}$) as $A\vec{x}_{\text{gen}} = \vec{y}_{\text{rec}}$. Each matrix element $A_{ij}$ is the probability for an event originating from bin $j$ of $\vec{x}_{\text{gen}}$ to be measured in bin $i$ of $\vec{y}_{\text{rec}}$. The migration matrix is based on the simulated performance of the D0 detector. The reconstruction-level bins used in the migration matrix are twice as narrow as the generator level bins, in order to provide detailed information on the bin-to-bin migrations, and improve the accuracy of the unfolding \cite{43}. The generated distribution $\vec{x}_{\text{gen}}$ can be estimated using $A^\dagger$, the pseudoinverse \cite{44} of the matrix $A$: $\vec{x}_{\text{gen}} = A^\dagger\vec{y}_{\text{rec}}$. As with ordinary matrix inversion, this results in large contributions that lack statistical significance. Such contributions can be minimized by imposing
FIG. 1: (color online) Distributions of (a) the number of jets, (b) the scalar sum of the \( p_T \) values of the lepton and jets, (c) \( E_T \), and (d) lepton \( p_T \) for the \( e+jets \) final state. The data are compared to the sum of predicted contributions from signal and background processes, using the measured inclusive \( t\bar{t} \) cross section of 8.3 pb. The highest bin in the histograms is used as an overflow bin. The ratios of data to the sum of the signal and all background contributions are shown in the panels below the distributions. The bands show the 1 s.d. combined systematic uncertainties on the sum of the signal and background contributions.

regularization, which leads to an effective cutoff of the insignificant terms. We employ regularized unfolding as implemented in the \texttt{TUNFOLD} package \cite{45}. The regularization is based on the derivative of the distribution and is done in twice as many bins as are used in the final results. The value of the regularization strength is determined using the so-called L-curve approach \cite{45} that balances the consistency of \( x \) with the data against the scatter of \( x \). A \( \chi^2 \) statistic measures the tension between \( x \) and the data and the scatter of \( x \). An insufficient regularization admits fluctuations into the unfolded result, whereas excessive regularization overly biases the measurement towards the MC generated distribution. Within these bounds, a systematic uncertainty is derived for this procedure as discussed in Sect. \textbf{VIII.E}. The statistical uncertainties of the differential measurements were computed analytically with \texttt{TUNFOLD} and verified using an ensemble of simulated pseudo-datasets. The covariance matrix is calculated by propagating the uncertainties of the reconstructed distribution \( \vec{y}_{\text{rec}} \) through the unfolding process.

VI. EXTRACTION OF THE SIGNAL

To reconstruct the four-vectors of the full \( t\bar{t} \) decay chain, \( t\bar{t} \rightarrow W^+b + W^-\bar{b} \rightarrow (q\bar{q})b + (\ell\nu)b \), we use a
constrained kinematic reconstruction algorithm [46] that takes into account experimental resolutions. In total the algorithm uses 18 parameters based on the measurements of jets, leptons and $E_T$. The masses of the $W$ boson and the $t$ quark are fixed to 80.4 GeV and 172.5 GeV, respectively. The $E_T$ provides the initial estimate for the $p_T$ of the neutrino. The longitudinal momentum $p_z(\nu)$ is estimated by constraining the mass of the $W$ boson decay products to 80.4 GeV. This yields a quadratic equation in $p_z(\nu)$ with two solutions. These solutions, together with the 12 possible jet–quark assignments yield 24 possible solutions to the kinematic reconstruction algorithm. The large number of solutions is reduced by assigning $b$-tagged jets to $b$ quarks. The solution with the best $\chi^2$ for assigning the reconstructed objects to the parton-level quantities serves as the input to the unfolding (see Sec. IV). This solution corresponds to the correct assignment of the quarks to the jets from the $t\bar{t}$ decay in 80% of the cases. The observed and expected distributions in $\chi^2$ are compared in Fig. 3.

The modeling of signal and background processes is verified through a comparison of the data to the number of expected $t\bar{t}$ signal events and the sum of all background contributions. Figures 4–6 show the reconstructed $m(t\bar{t})$, $|y^{\text{top}}|$, and $p_T^{\text{top}}$ distributions before unfolding. The $|y^{\text{top}}|$ and $p_T^{\text{top}}$ distributions include both $W \rightarrow l\nu$ and $W \rightarrow q\bar{q}'$ decay modes (two entries per
FIG. 3: (color online) Distribution of $\chi^2$ for the best solution with lowest $\chi^2$ for the (a) $e+$jets and (b) $\mu+$jets final states. The data are compared to the sum of predicted contributions from signal and background processes, using the measured inclusive $t\bar{t}$ cross section of 8.3 pb. The highest bin in the histograms is used as an overflow bin. The ratios of data to the sum of the signal and all background contributions are shown in the panels below the distributions. The bands show the 1 s.d. combined systematic uncertainties on the sum of the signal and background contributions.

FIG. 4: (color online) Distribution of $m(t\bar{t})$, (a) compared to the sum of predicted contributions from signal and background processes, and (b) the background-subtracted distribution, using the measured inclusive $t\bar{t}$ cross section of 8.3 pb. The lower panels indicate the ratio of the data to (a) the sum of the signal and all background processes, and (b) to the signal process only.

event). The resolutions in the two decay modes are similar, hence they are combined. The distributions in (a) of Figs. 3 and 4 show the data compared to the $t\bar{t}$ signal and background processes, while (b) shows the background-subtracted data. The $t\bar{t}$ contribution in MC is normalized to the measured inclusive cross section of 8.3 pb. The data and its description by the sum of signal and background processes agree within uncertainties.

VII. CROSS SECTION DETERMINATION

Equation \[ \sigma_i \] is used to calculate the differential $t\bar{t}$ cross section $\sigma_i$ as a function of the observable $X_i$, where $i$ denotes an individual bin, and $\Delta X_i$ its width.
The unfolded number of signal events $N_{i}^{\text{unfold}}$ is corrected for the branching fraction $B$ into the $\ell+\text{jets}$ decay channel of $0.342 \pm 0.02$ \cite{47} and used to obtain the cross section for the total integrated luminosity $\mathcal{L}$ that corresponds to the selection requirements, including data quality. The branching fraction used in Eq. \ref{eq:1} includes electrons and muons originating from the decay of $\tau$ leptons. The number of expected background events are estimated through MC and data-driven methods and is subtracted from data to determine $N_{i}^{\text{unfold}}$. The numbers of background-subtracted events are corrected for effects from limited detector resolution and efficiency by means of the regularized matrix unfolding as discussed in Sec. \ref{sec:V}. By using this procedure the data are corrected
TABLE III: Sources of systematic uncertainties. The uncertainty from each source on the inclusive cross section is given in the second columns. Systematic uncertainties in the binned values of the differential cross sections vary within the range given in the last column.

| Source of uncertainty | Uncertainties, % | \( \delta_{\text{incl}} \) | \( \delta_{\text{diff}} \) |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Signal modeling       |                  | ±5.2            | ±4.4            |
|                       |                  | ±4.4            | ±6.1            |
| PDF                   |                  | ±3.9            | ±1.8            |
|                       |                  | ±3.4            | ±0.2            |
| Detector Modeling     |                  | ±4.1            | ±0.2            |
| Sample composition    |                  | ±4.1            | ±0.2            |
| Regularization strength |                | ±1.8            | ±6.1            |
| Integrated luminosity |                  | ±1.8            | ±6.1            |
| Total systematic uncertainty |            | ±9.6            | ±9.3            |

for all detector effects including those from trigger, selection and b-tagging efficiencies and for the kinematic and geometric acceptance.

VIII. SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES

Systematic uncertainties are assessed by varying the values of a specific parameter in the modeling of the data, and repeating the analysis. Unless otherwise stated, the magnitudes of the parameter modifications are obtained from alternative calibrations of the MC. The migration matrix and the background contributions are extracted from these different MC models, while the regularization strength is fixed to the nominal unfolded data. The difference between the nominal unfolded data and unfolded data including a modification due to a specific parameter serves as the estimate of an individual source of systematic uncertainty. Individual sources of systematic uncertainty are added in quadrature for each bin of a differential cross section. The largest uncertainties usually arise at low values of \( m(t\bar{t}) \), \( |y^{top}| \), or \( p_T^{top} \), where there are few events. Table III summarizes the systematic uncertainties on the inclusive and differential cross sections. Numbers stated in the column denoted with \( \delta_{\text{diff}} \) illustrate the size of the systematic uncertainties in individual bins of the differential measurements.

A. Modeling of signal

The effect of NLO corrections on the matrix element for \( t\bar{t} \) production is estimated by comparing \( t\bar{t} \) events generated with MC@NLO+HERWIG to those from ALPGEN+PYTHIA. Based on comparing ALPGEN+PYTHIA to ALPGEN+HERWIG, we find that the effect of hadronization uncertainties are less than those from the inclusion of higher-order effects. The top mass is varied within its uncertainty of ±1 GeV [3]. An additional uncertainty on signal arises from relatively poor modeling of the reconstructed transverse momentum of the \( t\bar{t} \) pair \( p_T^{diff} \) at D0 [4]. A systematic uncertainty is estimated by reweighting the distribution of the reconstructed \( p_T^{diff} \) in MC to the one observed in D0 data.

B. Parton distributions functions

The uncertainty on the cross sections due to the uncertainty on PDFs is estimated following the procedure of Ref. [22] by reweighting the MC according to each of the 20 pairs of error eigenvectors of the CTEQ6M PDF.

C. Modeling of detector

Uncertainties on the modeling of the detector include uncertainties on trigger efficiency, lepton identification and b-quark identification. The uncertainty on trigger efficiency is roughly 2.5% for harder collisions (\( p_T^{top} > 90 \) GeV or \( m(t\bar{t}) > 500 \) GeV) and 6% for softer collisions that are typically closer to trigger thresholds. The \( p_T^{top} \) and \( m(t\bar{t}) \) differential cross-sections are modified according to these uncertainties, and the \( |y^{top}| \) differential cross section is rederived with trigger efficiencies reweighted according to \( p_T^{top} \). The identification efficiencies for b, c, light quarks (u, d, s) and gluons in MC are calibrated using dijet data [48], and variations within the calibration uncertainty are used to determine the systematic uncertainty due to b-quark identification. Additional uncertainties arise from track multiplicity requirements on the selected jets in the identification of b quarks.

Other instrumental uncertainties from modeling the detector arise from the calibration of the jet energy, resolution and efficiency. The jet energy scale (JES) corrects the measured energy of the jet to the energy of its constituent particles. The JES is derived using a quark jet dominated \( \gamma + \) jet sample, and corrects for the difference in detector response between data and MC. An additional correction based on single particle response accounts for the different characteristics of quark and gluon jets. Jets in MC have their transverse momenta smeared so that the simulated resolution matches the one observed in data. Calibrations to the jet reconstruction and identification efficiency in MC are determined using Z/\( \gamma^{\ast} \) + jets data. As mentioned earlier jets are required to contain at least two tracks (see Section IV), and in MC the corresponding efficiency is adjusted to match the one derived in dijet data. The uncertainties on the calibration of the jet energies, resolutions, and efficiencies as well as on the single particle response corrections are propagated to determine their effect on the differential cross sections.
D. Sample composition

Uncertainties on the composition of the selected events arise from the heavy-flavor scale factor used for $W + \text{jets}$ events, the assumed $t\bar{t}$ cross section, single top quark and diboson cross sections, and the estimate of the contributions from misidentified leptons. As described in Sec. IV, the heavy-flavor scale factor in $W$+jets uncertainties, mostly due to the uncertainties on the selection dependencies, mostly due to the uncertainties on the selection processes, the uncertainties on the single top quark cross sections is 12.6%, taken from varying the process. The uncertainty on the single top quark cross sections is assigned, corresponding to half the difference between the LO and NLO predictions. These results are in agreement with the inclusive $W$ production cross section (see Eq. (2)) can be compared to the fully resummed NLL at NNLO QCD calculation (see Sec. II), which gives $\sigma_{\text{tot}}^{\text{NLO}} = 7.24^{+0.22}_{-0.22}$ (scale + pdf) pb. The total cross section of the approximate NNLO calculation as in Ref. [14, 23] is calculated from the $p_T^{\text{top}}$ distribution and yields $7.08^{+0.20}_{-0.20}$ (scale)$^{+0.36}_{-0.27}$(PDF) pb. The data are also compared to differential cross section predictions from MC@NLO and ALPGEN, that correspond to total cross sections of $\sigma_{\text{tot}} = 7.54$ pb and $\sigma_{\text{tot}} = 5.61$ pb, respectively.

The fully corrected differential cross sections are shown in Figs. 8(a) for $m(t\bar{t})$, $|y|^{\text{top}}$, and $p_T^{\text{top}}$, respectively. The corresponding correlation coefficients of the differential measurements are presented in Table IX to XI in Appendix A. Note that the correlated normalization uncertainty on the differential data points is about $\pm 6.6\%$ dominated by the uncertainty on the measurement of the integrated luminosity. For $p_T^{\text{top}}$ and $|y|^{\text{top}}$ distributions we present the average $t$ and $\bar{t}$ cross sections. The differential cross sections are listed in Table VII to IX in Appendix A. For quantitative comparison to SM predictions, the covariance matrices (Tables XI and XII) for the results are presented in Appendix A. No bin centering correction is applied to the measurements, and the cross sections are displayed at the center of each bin. Contributions beyond the highest bin boundary are included in the last bin of the $m(t\bar{t})$, $|y|^{\text{top}}$, and $p_T^{\text{top}}$ distributions. As shown in Fig. 4(a) there are no contributions to the differential cross section for $m(t\bar{t})$ below 240 GeV.

The new D0 result is consistent with an earlier measurement by D0 using 1.0 fb$^{-1}$ of data [11]. Statistical uncertainties are defined differently in Ref. [11], following Ref. [54], and are not directly comparable with the current uncertainties. The statistical uncertainties reported here are computed analytically and verified using an ensemble of simulated pseudo-datasets. Results presented here supersede results of Ref. [11].

X. CONCLUSIONS

Differential cross sections for $t\bar{t}$ production have been measured in the $\ell$+jets decay channels using the full
FIG. 7: (color online) (a) Measured differential cross section as a function of $m(\bar{t}t)$ for data compared to several QCD predictions. The inner error bars correspond to the statistical uncertainties and the outer error bars to the total uncertainties. (b) Ratio of data, ALPGEN (dashed line) and MC@NLO cross sections (dash-dotted line) to the QCD prediction at approximate NNLO \cite{24}. MC and pQCD predictions use a top quark mass of 172.5 GeV unless indicated to the contrary. Note that the correlated overall normalization uncertainty on the differential data points is about ±6.6%.

FIG. 8: (color online) (a) Measured differential cross section as a function of $|y_{\text{top}}|$ for data compared to several QCD predictions. The inner error bars correspond to the statistical uncertainties and the outer error bars to the total uncertainties. (b) Ratio of data, ALPGEN (dashed line) and MC@NLO cross sections (dash-dotted line) to the QCD prediction at approximate NNLO \cite{24}. MC and pQCD predictions use a top quark mass of 172.5 GeV unless indicated to the contrary. Note that the correlated overall normalization uncertainty on the differential data points is about ±6.6%.

Tevatron data set at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV. The data are corrected for detector efficiency, acceptance and bin migration by means of a regularized unfolding procedure. The differential cross sections are measured with a typical precision of 9% as a function of the invariant mass of the $t\bar{t}$ system $m(\bar{t}t)$, the absolute rapidity of the $t$ and $\bar{t}$ quarks $|y_{\text{top}}|$, and the transverse momentum $p_{T_{\text{top}}}$. The measured differential cross sections are in general agreement with predictions by QCD generators and predictions at approximate NNLO.
FIG. 9: (color online) (a) Measured differential cross section as a function of $p_T^{\text{top}}$ for data compared to several QCD predictions. The inner error bars correspond to the statistical uncertainties and the outer error bars to the total uncertainties. (b) Ratio of data, alpgen (dashed line) and mc@nlo cross sections (dash-dotted line) to the QCD prediction at approximate NNLO [14]. MC and pQCD predictions use a top quark mass of 172.5 GeV unless indicated to the contrary. Note that the correlated overall normalization uncertainty on the differential data points is about ±6.6%.

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Appendix A: Cross section tables & covariance matrices

The correlation coefficients for the differential cross sections are given in Table IV, V, and VI which are helpful in interpreting the differential cross sections as shown in Figs. 7, 8, and 9. The numerical values of the cross sections are given as a function of $m(t\bar{t})$, $|y_{\text{top}}|$, and $p_{T\text{top}}$ in Table VII, VIII, and IX, respectively. Contributions beyond the highest bin boundary are included in the last bin of the $m(t\bar{t})$, $|y_{\text{top}}|$ and $p_{T\text{top}}$ table entries. The full covariance matrices for these cross sections are given in Table X, XI, and XII. Furthermore the results of diagonalizing the covariance matrices in terms of eigenvalues and corresponding eigenvectors are presented in Tables XIII, XIV, and XV.
### TABLE IV: Correlation coefficients of the differential cross section as a function of $m(t\bar{t})$.

| $m(t\bar{t})$ [TeV] | 0.2400 – 0.4125 | 0.4125 – 0.5050 | 0.5050 – 0.6150 | 0.6150 – 0.7500 | 0.7500 – 1.2000 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 0.2400 – 0.4125     | 1              | -0.45          | +0.13          | -0.02          | -0.00          |
| 0.4125 – 0.5050     | -0.45          | 1              | -0.51          | +0.12          | +0.01          |
| 0.5050 – 0.6150     | +0.13          | -0.51          | 1              | -0.48          | +0.02          |
| 0.6150 – 0.7500     | -0.02          | +0.12          | -0.48          | 1              | -0.63          |
| 0.7500 – 1.2000     | -0.00          | +0.01          | +0.02          | -0.63          | 1              |

### TABLE V: Correlation coefficients of the differential cross section as a function of $|y^{\text{top}}|$.

| $|y^{\text{top}}|$ | 0.00 – 0.25 | 0.25 – 0.50 | 0.50 – 0.75 | 0.75 – 1.00 | 1.00 – 1.25 | 1.25 – 1.50 |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 0.00 – 0.25       | 1          | -0.51      | -0.06      | -0.02      | -0.01      | -0.00      |
| 0.25 – 0.50       | -0.51      | 1          | -0.39      | -0.02      | -0.01      | -0.00      |
| 0.50 – 0.75       | -0.06      | -0.39      | 1          | -0.41      | -0.00      | -0.00      |
| 0.75 – 1.00       | -0.02      | -0.02      | -0.41      | 1          | -0.41      | -0.01      |
| 1.00 – 1.25       | -0.01      | -0.01      | -0.00      | -0.41      | 1          | -0.46      |
| 1.25 – 1.50       | -0.00      | -0.01      | -0.00      | -0.01      | -0.46      | 1          |

### TABLE VI: Correlation coefficients of the differential cross section as a function of $p_T^{\text{top}}$.

| $p_T^{\text{top}}$ [TeV] | 0.000 – 0.045 | 0.045 – 0.090 | 0.090 – 0.140 | 0.140 – 0.200 | 0.200 – 0.300 | 0.300 – 0.500 |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 0.000 – 0.045            | 1            | -0.55        | +0.01        | +0.00        | -0.00        | -0.00        |
| 0.045 – 0.090            | -0.55        | 1            | -0.42        | +0.02        | +0.00        | -0.00        |
| 0.090 – 0.140            | +0.01        | -0.42        | 1            | -0.37        | -0.01        | -0.00        |
| 0.140 – 0.200            | +0.00        | +0.02        | -0.37        | 1            | -0.29        | -0.03        |
| 0.200 – 0.300            | -0.00        | +0.00        | -0.01        | -0.29        | 1            | -0.15        |
| 0.300 – 0.500            | -0.00        | +0.00        | -0.00        | -0.03        | -0.15        | 1            |

### TABLE VII: Average value of $m(t\bar{t})$ and differential cross section in each bin of $m(t\bar{t})$. In addition to the systematic uncertainty reported in column five there is a 6.1% normalization uncertainty across all bins due to the uncertainty on the integrated luminosity.

| $m(t\bar{t})$ [TeV] | $\langle M(t\bar{t}) \rangle$ [TeV] | $d\sigma/dM(t\bar{t})$ [pb/TeV] | $\delta^{\text{stat}}$ [pb/TeV] | $\delta^{\text{sys}}$ [pb/TeV] |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 0.2400 – 0.4125     | 0.36                               | 20.60                           | ±1.52                         | ±3.86                         |
| 0.4125 – 0.5050     | 0.46                               | 31.26                           | ±2.03                         | ±3.76                         |
| 0.5050 – 0.6150     | 0.55                               | 9.38                            | ±1.34                         | ±2.20                         |
| 0.6150 – 0.7500     | 0.67                               | 2.13                            | ±0.59                         | ±0.78                         |
| 0.7500 – 1.2000     | 0.83                               | 0.15                            | ±0.10                         | ±1.00                         |

### TABLE VIII: Average value of $|y^{\text{top}}|$ and differential cross section in each bin of $|y^{\text{top}}|$. In addition to the systematic uncertainty reported in column five there is a 6.1% normalization uncertainty across all bins due to the uncertainty on the integrated luminosity.

| $|y^{\text{top}}|$ | $\langle |y|/(t\bar{t}) \rangle$ | $d\sigma/d|y|/(t\bar{t})$ [pb] | $\delta^{\text{stat}}$ [pb] | $\delta^{\text{sys}}$ [pb] |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 0.00 – 0.25       | 0.13                        | 8.84                          | ±0.53                       | ±0.54                        |
| 0.25 – 0.50       | 0.37                        | 9.84                          | ±0.70                       | ±0.99                        |
| 0.50 – 0.75       | 0.62                        | 7.03                          | ±0.70                       | ±0.97                        |
| 0.75 – 1.00       | 0.86                        | 4.70                          | ±0.65                       | ±0.97                        |
| 1.00 – 1.25       | 1.11                        | 2.96                          | ±0.53                       | ±0.97                        |
| 1.25 – 1.50       | 1.36                        | 0.69                          | ±0.17                       | ±0.27                        |
The systematic uncertainty is assumed to be 100% correlated.

TABLE IX: Average value of $p_T^{\text{top}}$ and differential cross section in each bin of $p_T^{\text{top}}$. In addition to the systematic uncertainty reported in column five there is a 6.1% normalization uncertainty across all bins due to the uncertainty on the integrated luminosity.

| $p_T^{\text{top}}$ [TeV] | $\langle p_T(t/\bar{t}) \rangle$ [TeV] | $d\sigma/dp_T(t/\bar{t})$ [pb/TeV] | $\delta^\text{stat.}$ [pb/TeV] | $\delta^\text{sys.}$ [pb/TeV] |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 0.000 - 0.045           | 0.030                            | 27.76                            | $\pm 3.31$                    | +3.21                         |
| 0.045 - 0.090           | 0.068                            | 69.70                            | $\pm 4.07$                    | +1.79                         |
| 0.090 - 0.140           | 0.112                            | 41.47                            | $\pm 2.78$                    | +2.88                         |
| 0.140 - 0.200           | 0.164                            | 22.84                            | $\pm 1.51$                    | +3.34                         |
| 0.200 - 0.300           | 0.234                            | 4.18                             | $\pm 0.56$                    | +3.45                         |
| 0.300 - 0.500           | 0.321                            | 0.32                             | $\pm 0.20$                    | +1.25                         |

TABLE X: Covariance matrix (statistical and systematical uncertainties) of the differential cross section as a function of $m(t\bar{t})$. The systematic uncertainty is assumed to be 100% correlated.

| $m(t\bar{t})$ [TeV] | 0.2400 - 0.4125 | 0.4125 - 0.5050 | 0.5050 - 0.6150 | 0.6150 - 0.7500 | 0.7500 - 1.200 |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 0.2400 - 0.4125     | +16.832         | −1.430          | +0.364          | −0.051          | −0.001 |
| 0.4125 - 0.5050     | −1.430          | +6.436          | −1.820          | +0.321          | +0.021 |
| 0.5050 - 0.6150     | +0.364          | −1.820          | +2.570          | −0.635          | +0.020 |
| 0.6150 - 0.7500     | −0.051          | +0.321          | −0.635          | +0.633          | −0.141 |
| 0.7500 - 1.2000     | −0.001          | +0.021          | +0.020          | −0.141          | +0.129 |

TABLE XI: Covariance matrix (statistical and systematical uncertainties) of the differential cross section as a function of $|y^{\text{top}}|$. The systematic uncertainty is assumed to be 100% correlated.

| $|y^{\text{top}}|$ | 0.00 - 0.25 | 0.25 - 0.50 | 0.50 - 0.75 | 0.75 - 1.00 | 1.00 - 1.25 | 1.25 - 1.50 |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 0.00 - 0.25       | +0.873     | −0.177     | −0.018     | −0.004     | −0.001     | −0.000     |
| 0.25 - 0.50       | −0.177     | +0.970     | +0.551     | −0.170     | −0.001     | −0.000     |
| 0.50 - 0.75       | −0.018     | −0.176     | +0.557     | −0.124     | −0.002     | −0.002     |
| 0.75 - 1.00       | −0.004     | −0.008     | −0.001     | −0.124     | +0.609     | −0.072     |
| 1.00 - 1.25       | −0.001     | −0.001     | −0.000     | −0.002     | −0.072     | +0.104     |
| 1.25 - 1.50       | −0.000     | −0.000     | −0.000     | −0.000     | −0.072     | +0.104     |

TABLE XII: Covariance matrix (statistical and systematical uncertainties) of the differential cross section as a function of $p_T^{\text{top}}$. The systematic uncertainty is assumed to be 100% correlated.

| $p_T^{\text{top}}$ [TeV] | 0.000 - 0.045 | 0.045 - 0.090 | 0.090 - 0.140 | 0.140 - 0.200 | 0.200 - 0.300 | 0.300 - 0.500 |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 0.000 - 0.045           | +25.018       | −8.692        | +0.157        | +0.011        | −0.008        | −0.000        |
| 0.045 - 0.090           | −8.692        | +22.028       | −5.916        | +0.155        | +0.0149       | +0.000        |
| 0.090 - 0.140           | +0.157        | −5.916        | +19.277       | −1.958        | −0.037        | −0.001        |
| 0.140 - 0.200           | +0.011        | +0.155        | −1.958        | +3.942        | −0.324        | −0.009        |
| 0.200 - 0.300           | −0.008        | +0.015        | −0.037        | −0.324        | +0.469        | −0.013        |
| 0.300 - 0.500           | −0.000        | +0.000        | −0.001        | −0.009        | −0.013        | +0.047        |

TABLE XIII: Eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the covariance matrix (see Table X) of the differential cross section as a function of $m(t\bar{t})$. The contribution of the eigenvector is listed in the first column and the eigenvalue $\lambda$ in the second column followed by the elements of the eigenvectors in bins of $m(t\bar{t})$.

| Contribution | $\lambda$ | $|m(t\bar{t})|$ range [TeV] |
|--------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 1.655 ± 0.284| 0.081     | 0.2400 - 0.4125             |
| 6.361 ± 0.691| 0.478     | 0.4125 - 0.5050             |
| 19.747 ± 1.416| 2.004    | 0.5050 - 0.6150             |
| 28.166 ± 2.643| 6.985    | 0.6150 - 0.7500             |
| 16.360 ± 4.129| 17.052   | 0.7500 - 1.2000             |
TABLE XIV: Eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the covariance matrix (see Table XI) of the differential cross section as a function of $|y^{\text{top}}|$. The contribution of the eigenvector is listed in the first column and the eigenvalue $\lambda$ in the second column followed by the elements of the eigenvectors in bins of $|y^{\text{top}}|$. 

| Contribution | $\lambda$ | $|y^{\text{top}}|$ range |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
|              | 0.00 – 0.25 | 0.25 – 0.50 | 0.50 – 0.75 | 0.75 – 1.00 | 1.00 – 1.25 | 1.25 – 1.50 |
| 1.651 ± 0.305 | 0.093      | +0.003      | +0.024      | +0.055      | +0.151      | +0.987       |
| 11.494 ± 0.571 | 0.326      | +0.100      | +0.669      | +0.644      | +0.263      | −0.094       |
| 4.399 ± 0.749  | 0.561      | +0.187      | +0.503      | −0.346      | −0.704      | +0.112       |
| 7.624 ± 0.853  | 0.728      | +0.467      | +0.383      | −0.531      | +0.586      | −0.067       |
| 6.320 ± 0.904  | 0.817      | +0.678      | +0.253      | −0.481      | +0.419      | −0.261       | +0.025       |
| 1.861 ± 1.067  | 1.138      | −0.526      | +0.811      | −0.247      | +0.068      | −0.017       | +0.001       |

TABLE XV: Eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the covariance matrix (see Table XII) of the differential cross section as a function of $p_T^{\text{top}}$. The contribution of the eigenvector is listed in the first column and the eigenvalue $\lambda$ in the second column followed by the elements of the eigenvectors in bins of $p_T^{\text{top}}$. 

| Contribution | $\lambda$ | $p_T^{\text{top}}$ range [TeV] |
|--------------|------------|-------------------------------|
|              | 0.000 – 0.045 | 0.045 – 0.090 | 0.090 – 0.140 | 0.140 – 0.200 | 0.200 – 0.300 | 0.300 – 0.500 |
| 0.648 ± 0.214 | 0.046      | +0.000      | +0.000      | +0.001      | +0.006      | +0.036       | +0.999       |
| 7.162 ± 0.661 | 0.437      | +0.001      | +0.003      | +0.013      | +0.099      | +0.994       | −0.037       |
| 31.477 ± 1.924 | 3.703      | +0.017      | +0.045      | +0.140      | +0.984      | −1.000       | −0.002       |
| 81.156 ± 3.451 | 11.906     | +0.461      | +0.705      | +0.526      | −0.115      | +0.002       | +0.000       |
| 1.400 ± 4.601 | 21.160     | +0.561      | +0.235      | −0.788      | +0.092      | −0.000       | +0.000       |
| 16.028 ± 5.790 | 33.529     | −0.687      | +0.667      | −0.288      | +0.022      | +0.001       | +0.000       |