



# Study of jet quenching with isolated-photon+jet correlations in PbPb and pp collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV

The CMS Collaboration\*

CERN, Switzerland



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## ABSTRACT

Measurements of azimuthal angle and transverse momentum ( $p_T$ ) correlations of isolated photons and associated jets are reported for pp and PbPb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV. The data were recorded with the CMS detector at the CERN LHC. For events containing a leading isolated photon with  $p_T^\gamma > 40$  GeV/c and an associated jet with  $p_T^{\text{jet}} > 30$  GeV/c, the photon+jet azimuthal correlation and  $p_T$  imbalance in PbPb collisions are studied as functions of collision centrality and  $p_T^\gamma$ . The results are compared to pp reference data collected at the same collision energy and to predictions from several theoretical models for parton energy loss. No evidence of broadening of the photon+jet azimuthal correlations is observed, while the ratio  $p_T^{\text{jet}}/p_T^\gamma$  decreases significantly for PbPb data relative to the pp reference. All models considered agree within uncertainties with the data. The number of associated jets per photon with  $p_T^\gamma > 80$  GeV/c is observed to be shifted towards lower  $p_T^{\text{jet}}$  values in central PbPb collisions compared to pp collisions.

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## 1. Introduction

Quantum chromodynamics predicts that in relativistic heavy ion collisions a state of deconfined quarks and gluons known as the quark–gluon plasma (QGP) can be formed [1,2]. Parton scatterings with large momentum transfer, which occur very early ( $\approx 0.1$  fm/c) compared to the timescale of QGP formation ( $\approx 1$  fm/c), provide tomographic probes of the plasma [3]. The outgoing partons interact strongly with the QGP and lose energy [4–9]. This phenomenon, known as “jet quenching”, has been observed through measurements of hadrons with high transverse momentum ( $p_T$ ) [10–15] and of jets [16–22], both created by the fragmentation of the high-momentum partons.

Since electroweak bosons do not interact strongly with the QGP [23–26], measurements of jets produced in the same hard scattering in conjunction with these bosons have, in contrast to dijet measurements, a controlled configuration of the initial hard scattering [27–29]. The electroweak boson  $p_T$  reflects, on average, the initial energy of the associated parton that fragments into the jet, before any medium-induced energy loss has occurred [30,31]. At LHC energies, the production of jets with  $p_T > 30$  GeV/c that are associated with electroweak bosons is dominated by quark

fragmentation [32]. Hence, the study of correlations in boson-jet events, such as the azimuthal angle ( $\phi$ ) difference and  $p_T$  ratio between the boson and the associated jets, opens the possibility for in-depth studies of the parton energy loss mechanisms utilizing theoretically well-controlled initial production processes. These studies also facilitate the extraction of QGP properties via comparisons with theoretical models [31,33–37]. Measurements of this kind were first performed in PbPb collisions at a nucleon–nucleon center-of-mass energy  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$  TeV with isolated-photon+jet events [38] and at 5.02 TeV with Z-jet events [39] by the CMS Collaboration at the CERN LHC. The precision of these previous measurements was limited by the available number of boson-jet pairs.

In the results reported in this paper, the electroweak boson is an isolated photon, which is selected experimentally by using an isolation requirement, namely that the additional energy in a cone of fixed radius around the direction of the reconstructed photon is less than a specified value [23,24]. This restriction suppresses the background contributions from photons originating from decays of neutral mesons (“decay photons”), and gives a sample containing mostly prompt photons. Prompt photons are photons produced directly in the hard scattering process, or emitted in the fragmentation of a high- $p_T$  parton (“fragmentation photons”). This Letter reports the measurement of correlations of isolated photons and associated jets in PbPb and pp collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV. The

\* E-mail address: [cms-publication-committee-chair@cern.ch](mailto:cms-publication-committee-chair@cern.ch).

PbPb and pp data samples were collected by the CMS experiment in 2015 and correspond to integrated luminosities of  $404 \mu\text{b}^{-1}$  and  $27.4 \text{pb}^{-1}$ , respectively. The measurement characterizes parton energy loss through the  $\phi$  and  $p_T$  correlations between isolated photons and the associated jets. The azimuthal angle difference  $\Delta\phi_{j\gamma} = |\phi^{\text{jet}} - \phi^\gamma|$ , the  $p_T$  ratio  $x_{j\gamma} = p_T^{\text{jet}}/p_T^\gamma$  and its average  $\langle x_{j\gamma} \rangle$ , the average number of associated jets per photon,  $R_{j\gamma}$ , and the ratio of the yield of associated jets in PbPb data to pp data,  $I_{AA}^{\text{jet}}$ , are presented. The results from PbPb collisions are compared to those from pp collisions, with the pp data serving as a reference to extract information about the modifications due to the presence of the QGP.

## 2. The CMS detector

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 which measures charged particles within the pseudorapidity range  $|\eta| < 2.5$ , a lead tungstate crystal electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL), and a brass and scintillator hadron calorimeter (HCAL), each composed of a barrel and two endcap sections. The barrel and endcap calorimeters provide  $|\eta|$  coverage out to 3. Photon candidates used in this analysis are reconstructed using the energy deposited in the barrel region of the ECAL, which covers a range of  $|\eta| < 1.48$ . Hadron forward (HF) calorimeters extend the  $|\eta|$  coverage of the HCAL to  $|\eta| = 5.2$ . In PbPb collisions, the HF calorimeters are used to determine the centrality of the collisions, which is related to the impact parameter of the two colliding Pb nuclei [16], and the azimuthal angle of maximum particle density (the event plane) [40]. Muons are detected in gas-ionization chambers embedded in the steel flux-return yoke outside the solenoid. A more detailed description of the CMS detector, together with a definition of the coordinate system used and the relevant kinematic variables, can be found in Ref. [41].

## 3. Analysis procedure

### 3.1. Event selection

Events containing high- $p_T$  photon candidates are selected by the CMS trigger system, which consists of a level-1 (L1) and a high-level trigger (HLT) [42]. Events are first selected by requiring an ECAL transverse energy deposit larger than 21 (20) GeV during the PbPb (pp) data-taking period. Photon candidates are then reconstructed at the HLT using the “island” clustering algorithm [24,43], which is applied to energy deposits in the ECAL. The HLT selection efficiency was determined in data and was found to be greater than 98% for events containing a photon with  $p_T^\gamma > 40 \text{ GeV}/c$  and  $|\eta^\gamma| < 1.44$  reconstructed offline. The  $\eta^\gamma$  interval of the photons used in this analysis is restricted to the barrel region of the ECAL, which has the best performance in terms of photon reconstruction and triggering and has the lowest rate of misreconstructed tracks.

A pure sample of inelastic hadronic pp and PbPb collisions is obtained with further offline selection criteria applied to the triggered events [16,44]. Notable among these, a reconstructed event vertex and at least three (one) calorimeter towers in the HF on each side of the interaction point with energy  $>3 \text{ GeV}$  are (is) required in the PbPb (pp) analysis. Events with spurious energy depositions in the HCAL (i.e., sporadic uncharacteristic noise and signals from malfunctioning calorimeter channels) are rejected by established algorithms that flag such events, to remove possible contamination of the jet sample [45]. Events with multiple collisions have a negligible effect on the measurement since the aver-

age number of collisions per bunch crossing is around 0.9 for pp collisions, and less than 0.01 for PbPb collisions.

In PbPb collisions, the centrality measurement is based on percentiles of the distribution of the total energy measured in both HF calorimeters. The event centrality observable corresponds to the fraction of the total inelastic hadronic cross section, starting at 0% for the most central collisions, i.e., those with the smallest impact parameter and the largest nuclear overlap [16].

### 3.2. Jet reconstruction

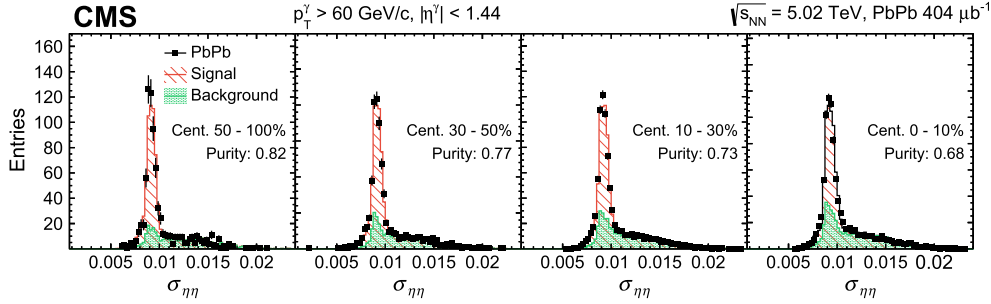
Offline jet reconstruction is performed using the CMS particle-flow (PF) algorithm [46]. By combining information from all sub-detector systems, the PF algorithm identifies final-state particles in an event, classifying them as electrons, muons, photons, charged hadrons, or neutral hadrons. To form jets, these PF objects are clustered using the anti- $k_T$  sequential recombination algorithm provided in the FASTJET framework [47,48]. A small jet radius parameter of  $R = 0.3$  is chosen to minimize the effects of heavy ion background fluctuations ( $\sim 10 \text{ GeV}$  in central PbPb collisions) and for consistency with the previous measurement at 2.76 TeV [38].

For the PbPb data, the underlying background from soft collisions (i.e., the underlying event, UE) is subtracted during jet reconstruction by employing the iterative algorithm described in Ref. [49], using the same implementation as in the PbPb analysis of Ref. [16]. In pp collisions, jets are reconstructed without UE subtraction. For pp and PbPb samples, the reconstructed jet energies are corrected to the energies of final-state particle jets using a factorized multistep approach [50]. The corrections are derived using simulated dijet and photon+jet events generated with the PYTHIA 8.212 [51] (CUETP8M1 tune [52]) Monte Carlo (MC) event generator which, for the case of PbPb corrections, are embedded into a simulated underlying background event from HYDJET 1.9 [53]. The background simulation is tuned to reproduce the observed charged-particle multiplicity and  $p_T$  spectrum in PbPb data. Reconstructed jets are required to have  $|\eta^{\text{jet}}| < 1.6$  and corrected  $p_T^{\text{jet}} > 30 \text{ GeV}/c$ , to ensure that the jet reconstruction efficiency and energy resolution (JER) are well understood, i.e., results from data are in agreement with expectations from MC.

### 3.3. Photon reconstruction

Photon candidates are reconstructed from clusters of energy deposited in the ECAL. The “hybrid” algorithm used for the analysis in pp collisions is detailed in Ref. [43], while the description of the island clustering algorithm optimized for high-multiplicity PbPb collisions can be found in Ref. [24].

In order to reduce electron contamination, photon candidates are discarded if the differences in pseudorapidity and azimuthal angle between the photon candidate and any electron candidate track with  $p_T > 10 \text{ GeV}/c$  are less than 0.02 and 0.15 radians, respectively [24]. These matching windows are conservative choices based on the detector angular resolution. The relatively large azimuthal angle window allows for the curvature of the electron trajectories. Anomalous signals caused by the interaction of highly ionizing particles directly with the silicon avalanche photodiodes used for the ECAL barrel readout are removed using the prescription given in Ref. [24]. The energy of the reconstructed photons is corrected to account for the effects of the material in front of the ECAL and for the incomplete containment of the shower energy. For PbPb data, an additional correction is applied to account for energy contamination from the UE. The magnitude of the combined energy correction for isolated photons varies from 0 to 10%, depending on the centrality of the collision and  $p_T^\gamma$ . The cor-



**Fig. 1.** The centrality dependence of the shower shape variable  $\sigma_{\eta\eta}$  for photons with  $p_T^\gamma > 60$  GeV/c. The black points show the PbPb experimental results, the red histograms are the signal templates from PYTHIA+HYDJET simulations, and the green histograms are the background templates obtained from a nonisolated sideband region in data. (For interpretation of the colors in the figure(s), the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

recoctions are obtained from simulated PYTHIA and PYTHIA+HYDJET photon events.

Similar to Ref. [54], a generator-level photon candidate is considered isolated if the  $p_T$  sum of final-state generated particles, excluding neutrinos, in a cone of radius  $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2} = 0.4$  around the direction of the candidate,  $\text{SumIso}$ , is less than 5 GeV/c. For a reconstructed photon candidate, the corresponding isolation variable,  $\text{SumIso}^{\text{UE-sub}}$ , is calculated with respect to the centroid of the cluster, not including the  $p_T$  of the cluster and after correcting for the UE (only in PbPb collisions), and is required to be less than 1 GeV/c. The isolation criterion for reconstructed photons is tighter than for generated photons to minimize the impact of UE fluctuations in PbPb collisions, where a downward fluctuation in the UE could inadvertently allow a nonisolated photon candidate to pass the isolation criteria. A systematic uncertainty is assigned to account for the effect of this difference on the final observables, as detailed in Section 3.5.

Imposing the isolation requirement suppresses the background contributions from fragmentation and decay photons, resulting in a sample enriched in isolated prompt photons. The dominant remaining backgrounds for isolated photon candidates are ECAL showers initiated by isolated hadrons, and real photons that are decay products of isolated neutral mesons, e.g.,  $\pi^0$ ,  $\eta$ , and  $\omega$ . The hadron-induced showers are rejected using the ratio of HCAL over ECAL energy inside a cone of radius  $\Delta R = 0.15$  around the photon candidate,  $H/E$ . Only photon candidates with  $H/E < 0.1$  are selected for this analysis. The decay photons can be significantly reduced using a cut on the shower shape, a measure of how energy deposited in the ECAL is distributed in  $\phi$  and  $\eta$  [54], as discussed in Section 3.4. The efficiencies of these criteria in selecting photons are extracted from simulations as a function of  $p_T^\gamma$  and corrected for in collision data.

### 3.4. Photon+jet pair selection

To form photon+jet pairs, the highest  $p_T$  isolated photon candidate that passes the selection criteria is paired with all jets in the same event. The combinatorial background in PbPb collisions, which includes misidentified jets that arise from UE fluctuations, as well as jets from multiple hard parton-parton scatterings in the same collision, needs to be subtracted in order to study the energy loss effects on the jets produced in the same hard scattering as the photon. This background subtraction is performed by correlating each leading isolated photon candidate with reconstructed jets found in 40 different events, randomly selected from minimum bias PbPb data such that the event centrality, the interaction vertex position along the beam axis, and the event plane, are within 5%, 5 cm, and  $\pi/10$ , respectively, of those from the signal event. The values were optimized such that the statistical uncertainty due to

the subtraction is negligible compared to the statistical uncertainty of the photon sample.

The background contribution from pairs of decay photons and jets is subtracted with a procedure based on collision data, using a two-component template fit of the electromagnetic shower shape variable  $\sigma_{\eta\eta}$ , which is defined as a modified second moment of the ECAL energy cluster distribution around its mean  $\eta$  position [54, 55]:

$$\sigma_{\eta\eta}^2 = \frac{\sum_i^{5 \times 5} w_i (\eta_i - \eta_{5 \times 5})^2}{\sum_i^{5 \times 5} w_i},$$

$$w_i = \max\left(0, 4.7 + \ln \frac{E_i}{E_{5 \times 5}}\right), \quad (1)$$

where  $E_i$  and  $\eta_i$  are the energy deposit and  $\eta$  of the  $i$ th ECAL crystal within a  $5 \times 5$  crystal array centered around the electromagnetic cluster, and  $E_{5 \times 5}$  and  $\eta_{5 \times 5}$  are the total energy and mean  $\eta$  of the  $5 \times 5$  crystal matrix, respectively. The shape of the signal distribution is obtained from PYTHIA+HYDJET simulations of isolated prompt photon+jet processes, while the background templates are obtained from a nonisolated sideband region in data,  $10 < \text{SumIso}^{\text{UE-sub}} < 20$  GeV/c. The purity of the photon sample (fraction of prompt photons within the remaining collection of candidates) is determined from the fit. Examples of the template fits are shown in Fig. 1 for the lowest  $p_T^\gamma$  photons and the four centrality intervals used in this analysis. The purity decreases in more central collisions, reflecting an increase in the backgrounds.

The yields and kinematic characteristics of the background arising from pairs of decay photons and jets are estimated by analyzing events with a larger photon shower width ( $0.011 < \sigma_{\eta\eta} < 0.017$ ), which are dominated by decay photons. The background contribution fraction is then subtracted from the yield for the signal events, which have a smaller photon shower width ( $\sigma_{\eta\eta} < 0.01$ ), according to the purity obtained from the template fits.

The detector response for low- $p_T$  jets can exhibit significant nonlinearity and biases because of the background subtraction procedure of the current jet algorithm, as well as the high magnetic field of the CMS detector. This is neither well-modeled nor well-understood. Hence, the distributions are not unfolded for the detector resolution, but the approach instead is to smear, i.e., convolve with a Gaussian resolution adjustment term, the jet energy in pp events to match the JER in each of the PbPb centrality classes in which the comparison is made. This is done in every figure except Fig. 10. The JER  $\sigma(p_T^{\text{gen}})$  is defined as the Gaussian standard deviation of the  $p_T^{\text{reco}}/p_T^{\text{gen}}$  ratio, where  $p_T^{\text{reco}}$  is the UE-subtracted, detector-level jet  $p_T$ , and  $p_T^{\text{gen}}$  is the generator-level jet  $p_T$  without any contributions from a PbPb UE. For PbPb (pp) collisions, the JER is calculated from PYTHIA+HYDJET (PYTHIA) events that are

**Table 1**

Jet resolution parameters for pp and PbPb collisions. A global uncertainty of 7% is assigned to the smearing parameters, evaluated as described in text.

	Centrality [%]	$C$	$S$ [(GeV/c) <sup>1/2</sup> ]	$N$ [GeV/c]
pp	–	0.06	0.95	0
PbPb	0–30	0.06	1.24	6.83
	30–100			0
	0–10	0.06	1.24	8.42
	10–30			5.54
	30–50			2.37
	50–100			0

propagated through the GEANT4 [56] package. The UE produced by HYDJET with GEANT4 simulation has been compared to data by observing the energy collected inside randomly oriented cones with the same radius as the distance parameter of the jet algorithm. The MC simulation is found to be in good agreement with the experimental results. The JER is parametrized using the expression

$$\sigma(p_T^{\text{gen}}) = \sqrt{C^2 + \frac{S^2}{p_T^{\text{gen}}} + \frac{N^2}{(p_T^{\text{gen}})^2}}. \quad (2)$$

The stochastic term  $S$  describes the  $p_T$  dependence of the jet energy resolution, the constant term  $C$  represents the high- $p_T$  limit of the resolution, and the noise term  $N$  reflects the effect of UE fluctuations on the energy resolution. All parameters for  $\sigma(p_T^{\text{gen}})$  are determined using PYTHIA and PYTHIA+HYDJET samples with their numerical values provided in Table 1. Following the smearing to 0–30% PbPb data, the energy resolutions of jets with  $p_T^{\text{jet}} = 30(60)$  GeV/c measured in pp data changes from 18%(14%) to 35%(22%) respectively. Compared to the JER, the jet  $\phi$  resolution has a negligible effect.

### 3.5. Systematic uncertainties

Systematic uncertainties are estimated separately for the pp and PbPb analyses. The uncertainties are determined for each centrality and  $p_T^\gamma$  interval using similar procedures as described in Ref. [38]. Seven sources of uncertainty are considered: photon purity, isolation definition, photon energy scale, electron contamination, photon efficiency, JER, and jet energy scale (JES). The total systematic uncertainties are calculated by summing in quadrature the uncertainties from all sources.

The uncertainty on the photon purity estimate is evaluated by varying the nonisolated sideband regions used to obtain the background template. The maximum deviation from the nominal values is  $\pm 10\%$  ( $\pm 6\%$ ) for central (peripheral) PbPb collisions, and  $\pm 5\%$  in pp collisions. The varied purity values are then used to perform the background subtraction, and the maximum difference from the nominal results is quoted as the uncertainty. The uncertainty due to the isolated photon definition is determined by comparing the photon+jet observables when using generator-level and detector-level definitions of the isolation variables. The photon energy scale uncertainty is based on the residual data-to-simulation photon energy scale difference after applying the photon energy corrections, amounting to about 1%, independent of  $p_T^\gamma$  and event centrality. The uncertainty due to electron contamination is evaluated by repeating the analysis without applying electron rejection, and scaling the difference in the final observables to the residual electron contamination after applying electron rejection. The electron rejection efficiency is determined to be 66% from MC studies. The uncertainty on the photon efficiency correction is determined by varying the selection criteria for matching reconstructed photons with generator-level photons. The uncertainty on the JER has two

sources. The first source is the difference between the JER in data and simulation, which is around 15% for all centralities in both pp and PbPb collisions. The associated systematic uncertainty is evaluated by propagating the effects of having a JER that differs by 15% relative to the nominal value. The second source (7%) accounts for the uncertainty in the resolution and the modeling of the JER distributions, and was obtained by considering the differences between the extracted JER in each  $p_T^{\text{gen}}$  bin and the parametrization using Eq. (2), and determining the value at one standard deviation of that distribution, assuming that the differences are normally distributed.

Finally, the JES uncertainty arises from three contributions that are added in quadrature for the final value. Two are common to both the pp and PbPb samples: the residual deviation from unity in simulation (i.e., the closure) of the JES after applying all jet energy corrections (2%) and the difference between data and simulation (2%). These two effects are independent of centrality and together amount to 2.8%. The closure of the JES depends on the flavor of the fragmenting parton: simulations show that the energy scale of quark jets is consistently higher than that of gluon jets. For pp collisions, the fragmentation dependence of the JES has been studied and is accounted for in the uncertainty from the difference between data and simulation. However, in PbPb collisions, the ratio of quarks and gluons can be different from pp data because of expected differences in centrality-dependent quenching of jets initiated by quarks or gluons. The subtraction of the UE in PbPb collisions results in the JES having a larger dependence on the fragmentation pattern than found for pp collisions, since one can only distinguish between soft particles from the jet fragmentation and the underlying event on average. Hence, an additional uncertainty, evaluated using collision data and simulation, is applied in PbPb collisions to account for these fragmentation effects on the JES arising from the subtraction algorithm, underlying event, and quenching. The photon-tagged jet fragmentation function in PbPb data is constructed and fit by a two-component model of the jet fragmentation functions for quark and gluon jets that were obtained from MC simulations. For  $p_T^\gamma > 60$  GeV/c, the results show that the fraction of jets originating from gluon fragmentation in data can be constrained to between 0% and approximately 26%, which corresponds to the fraction found in PYTHIA+HYDJET MC samples. Hence, in this kinematic region, the difference between the JES for a pure quark jet sample and the inclusive sample is used in the uncertainty estimation. For  $40 < p_T^\gamma < 60$  GeV/c, where the results of the template fit are inconclusive because of the large statistical uncertainties, the full difference in the JES between having 0% and 100% gluon jet fraction is used. This difference is approximately 2–5% (1.5–2.5%) in central (peripheral) collisions. The final systematic uncertainty associated with the unknown quark–gluon ratio in data is taken as the maximum deviation from varying the JES up and down according to the quark–gluon ratio constraints mentioned above for each  $p_T^\gamma$  interval.

A summary of the systematic uncertainties for  $R_{j\gamma}$ ,  $\langle x_{j\gamma} \rangle$ , and  $\Delta\phi_{j\gamma}$  in PbPb collisions is shown in Tables 2 and 3, averaged over multiple  $p_T^\gamma$  and/or event centrality intervals. The dominant sources of uncertainties in both pp and PbPb collisions are from JES and photon purity estimation. The systematic uncertainties for PbPb and pp collisions are considered uncorrelated.

## 4. Results and discussion

### 4.1. Photon+jet azimuthal correlation

Possible modification of the back-to-back photon and recoiling jet alignment by the medium can be studied by comparing

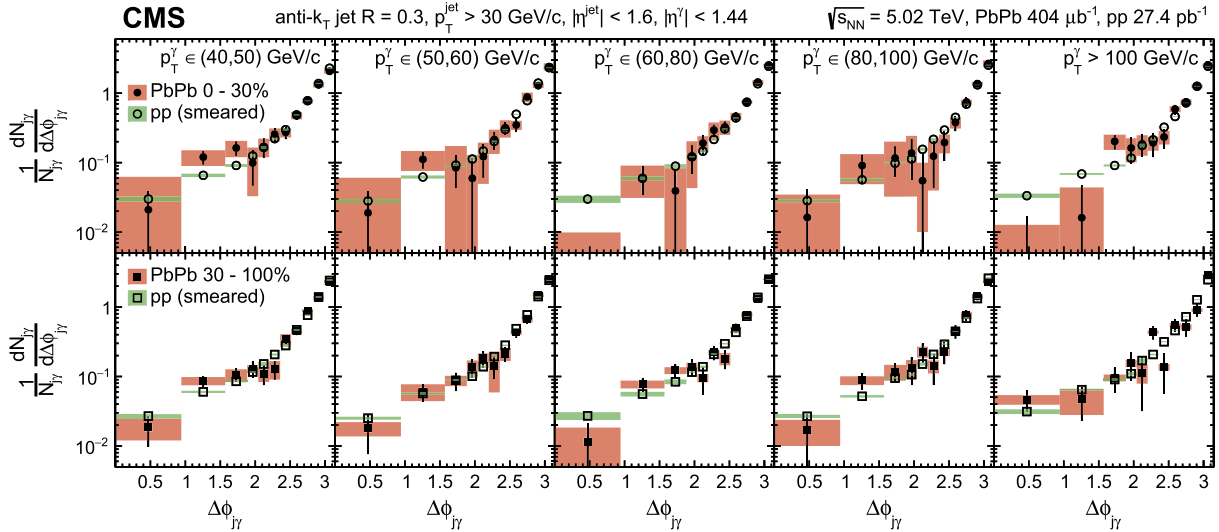


**Table 2**  
Summary of the relative systematic uncertainties (in %) for  $p_T^\gamma > 40$  GeV/c.

Source of systematic uncertainty [%]	pp		PbPb			
	$\langle x_{j\gamma} \rangle$	$R_{j\gamma}$	0–30% centrality		30–100% centrality	
			$\langle x_{j\gamma} \rangle$	$R_{j\gamma}$	$\langle x_{j\gamma} \rangle$	$R_{j\gamma}$
Photon energy scale	<0.5	<0.5	0.7	<0.5	<0.5	0.5
Photon isolation	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.7
Photon purity	<0.5	0.5	3.1	3.5	2.0	2.2
Photon efficiency	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5
Electron contamination	<0.5	<0.5	0.5	0.9	<0.5	0.9
Jet energy scale	1.9	1.8	2.8	7.3	2.8	5.1
Jet energy resolution	0.9	1.1	2.3	3.6	1.0	1.5

**Table 3**  
Summary of the absolute systematic uncertainties on  $(1/N_{j\gamma})(dN/d\Delta\phi_{j\gamma})$  for  $p_T^\gamma > 40$  GeV/c, averaged over the  $\Delta\phi_{j\gamma}$  distributions.

Source of systematic uncertainty	pp	PbPb	
		0–30% centrality	30–100% centrality
Photon energy scale	$<0.01 \times 10^{-2}$	$2.12 \times 10^{-2}$	$0.08 \times 10^{-2}$
Photon isolation	$0.27 \times 10^{-2}$	$0.26 \times 10^{-2}$	$0.16 \times 10^{-2}$
Photon purity	$0.13 \times 10^{-2}$	$0.78 \times 10^{-2}$	$0.61 \times 10^{-2}$
Photon efficiency	$<0.01 \times 10^{-2}$	$0.09 \times 10^{-2}$	$0.03 \times 10^{-2}$
Electron contamination	$0.05 \times 10^{-2}$	$0.19 \times 10^{-2}$	$0.14 \times 10^{-2}$
Jet energy scale	$0.23 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.63 \times 10^{-2}$	$0.86 \times 10^{-2}$
Jet energy resolution	$0.31 \times 10^{-2}$	$0.46 \times 10^{-2}$	$0.48 \times 10^{-2}$



**Fig. 2.** The azimuthal correlation of photons and jets in five  $p_T^\gamma$  intervals for 0–30% centrality (top, full circles) and 30–100% centrality (bottom, full squares) PbPb collisions. The smeared pp data (open symbols) are included for comparison. The vertical lines (bands) through the points represent statistical (systematic) uncertainties.

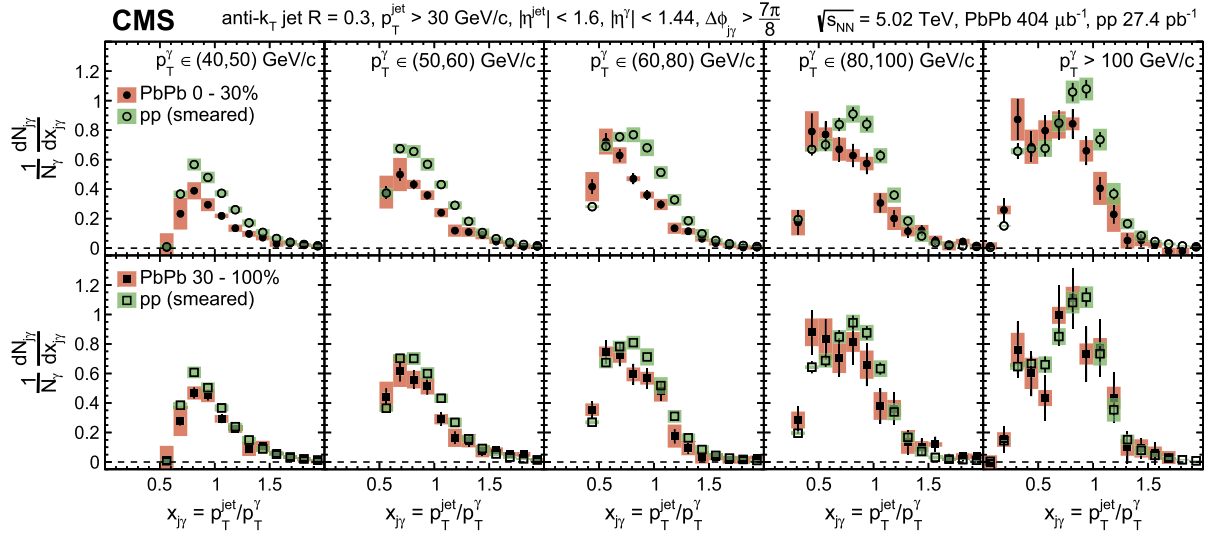
the relative azimuthal angle ( $\Delta\phi_{j\gamma}$ ) distributions in pp and PbPb collisions [16,17]. The distributions are normalized by the number of photon+jet pairs. The shape of the  $\Delta\phi_{j\gamma}$  distribution in pp and PbPb collisions is studied in intervals of leading photon  $p_T$  and two event centrality classes, as shown in Fig. 2. The exponentially falling region ( $\Delta\phi_{j\gamma} > 2\pi/3$ ) is fit to a normalized exponential function, as in Ref. [38], and the values of the exponents in PbPb and pp collisions from the fits are compared. Within the quoted statistical and systematic uncertainties, the PbPb results with different photon  $p_T$  and event centrality selections are consistent with the corresponding smeared pp reference data, i.e., no broadening of the distributions is observed.

#### 4.2. Photon+jet transverse momentum imbalance

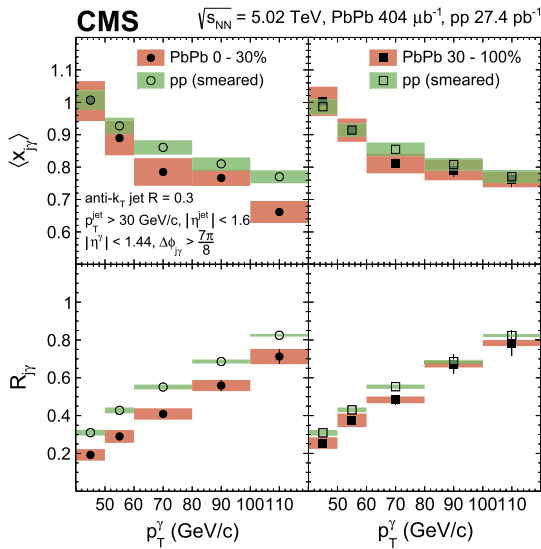
The asymmetry ratio  $x_{j\gamma} = p_T^{\text{jet}}/p_T^\gamma$  is used to quantify the photon+jet  $p_T$  imbalance due to in-medium parton energy loss.

In addition to the photon and jet selections used in the  $\Delta\phi_{j\gamma}$  study, a  $\Delta\phi_{j\gamma} > (7\pi)/8$  selection is applied to select back-to-back photon+jet topologies, suppressing the contributions from background jets as well as photon-multijet events. Fig. 3 shows the  $x_{j\gamma}$  distributions for different centrality and  $p_T^\gamma$  regions in pp and PbPb collisions, normalized by the number of photons. In 0–30% centrality PbPb collisions, significant modifications (lower mean and smaller integral values) of the  $x_{j\gamma}$  spectra with respect to the smeared pp reference data are observed, while the modifications are smaller in the 30–100% centrality PbPb collisions.

The mean values,  $\langle x_{j\gamma} \rangle$  (in effect, a truncated mean because of the  $p_T^{\text{jet}}$  threshold), of the  $x_{j\gamma}$  distributions are shown as a function of  $p_T^\gamma$  in Fig. 4 (top). The  $\langle x_{j\gamma} \rangle$  values in PbPb and smeared pp collisions are consistent with each other within the quoted uncertainties over the whole  $p_T^\gamma$  interval probed in 30–100% centrality PbPb collisions and in the region  $p_T^\gamma < 60$  GeV/c for 0–30%



**Fig. 3.** Distribution of  $x_{j\gamma} = p_T^{\text{jet}}/p_T^\gamma$  in five  $p_T^\gamma$  intervals for 0–30% centrality (top, full circles) and 30–100% centrality (bottom, full squares) PbPb collisions. The smeared pp data (open symbols) are included for comparison. The vertical lines (bands) through the points represent statistical (systematic) uncertainties.



**Fig. 4.** The  $\langle x_{j\gamma} \rangle$  values (top) and  $R_{j\gamma}$ , the number of associated jets per photon (bottom), in 0–30% centrality (left, full circles) and 30–100% centrality (right, full squares) PbPb collisions. The smeared pp data (open symbols) are added for comparison. The vertical lines (bands) through the points represent statistical (systematic) uncertainties.

centrality PbPb collisions. At higher  $p_T^\gamma$  in the more central PbPb events, the  $\langle x_{j\gamma} \rangle$  value is lower than in pp data.

With a jet  $p_T$  threshold of 30 GeV/c, the  $\langle x_{j\gamma} \rangle$  values observed for the selected photon+jet pairs likely underestimates the actual imbalance. Photon+jet pairs for which the momentum of the associated jets falls below the jet  $p_T$  threshold do not contribute to the  $\langle x_{j\gamma} \rangle$  value. To assess how the “missing” jets might affect the  $\langle x_{j\gamma} \rangle$  results, the average number of associated jets per photon passing the analysis selections,  $R_{j\gamma}$ , is shown in Fig. 4 (bottom). In the 0–30% most central PbPb collisions, the value of  $R_{j\gamma}$  is found to be lower than in the smeared pp data in all leading photon  $p_T$  intervals. The absolute difference is approximately constant as a function of  $p_T^\gamma$ , but the relative difference is larger at lower  $p_T^\gamma$ , since the  $R_{j\gamma}$  in pp collisions is itself lower in that region.

### 4.3. Jet yield ratio

Fig. 5 shows, as a function of  $p_T^{\text{jet}}$  for several  $p_T^\gamma$  intervals and two PbPb event centrality intervals, the ratio of the associated jet yields in PbPb and smeared pp events,  $I_{AA}^{\text{jet}}$ :

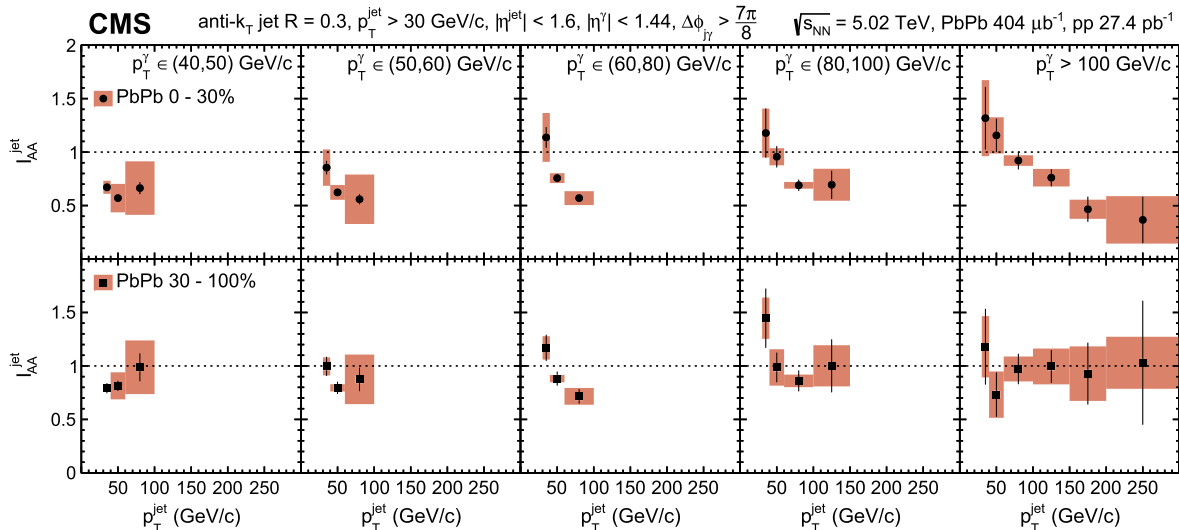
$$I_{AA}^{\text{jet}} = \left( \frac{1}{N_{\text{PbPb}}^\gamma} \frac{dN_{\text{PbPb}}^{\text{jet}}}{dp_T^{\text{jet}}} \right) / \left( \frac{1}{N_{\text{pp}}^\gamma} \frac{dN_{\text{pp}}^{\text{jet}}}{dp_T^{\text{jet}}} \right). \quad (3)$$

This variable reflects the modification of the associated jet  $p_T$  spectra by the medium. In 30–100% PbPb events, the  $I_{AA}^{\text{jet}}$  values are slightly suppressed for photon candidates with  $p_T^\gamma < 80$  GeV/c, and consistent with unity for photon candidates with  $p_T^\gamma > 80$  GeV/c. For 0–30% centrality PbPb events, a suppression of approximately a factor of 2 is observed at low  $p_T^\gamma$ . As the  $p_T^\gamma$  increases, the larger phase space allows quenched jets to remain above the kinematic selections, which translates to a slight excess of quenched jets appearing at low  $p_T^{\text{jet}}$ . This is seen in the top row, where  $I_{AA}^{\text{jet}}$  for low  $p_T^{\text{jet}}$  increases with  $p_T^\gamma$  while the  $I_{AA}^{\text{jet}}$  at large  $p_T^{\text{jet}}$  stays roughly constant.

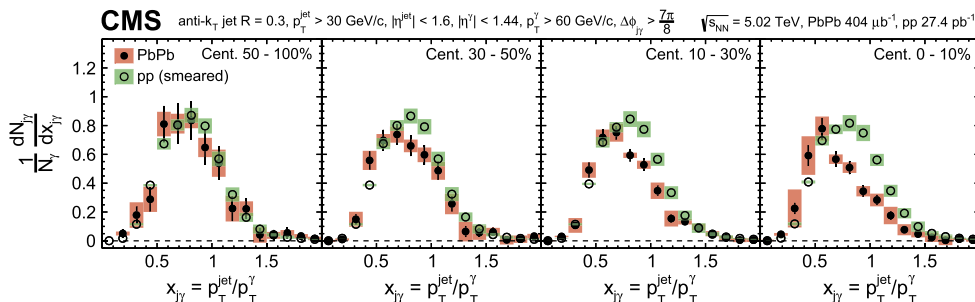
### 4.4. Centrality dependence

The centrality dependence in PbPb collisions of  $x_{j\gamma}$  spectra for  $p_T^\gamma > 60$  GeV/c is shown in Fig. 6. In the most peripheral collisions (50–100% centrality), the  $x_{j\gamma}$  distribution agrees with the smeared pp reference data. As collisions become more central, the PbPb distributions shift towards lower  $x_{j\gamma}$  and the integrals of the  $x_{j\gamma}$  spectra become smaller. This is consistent with the expectation that a larger amount of parton  $p_T$  is transported out of the jet cone as a consequence of the larger average path length that the parton needs to travel through in more central PbPb collisions [57,58].

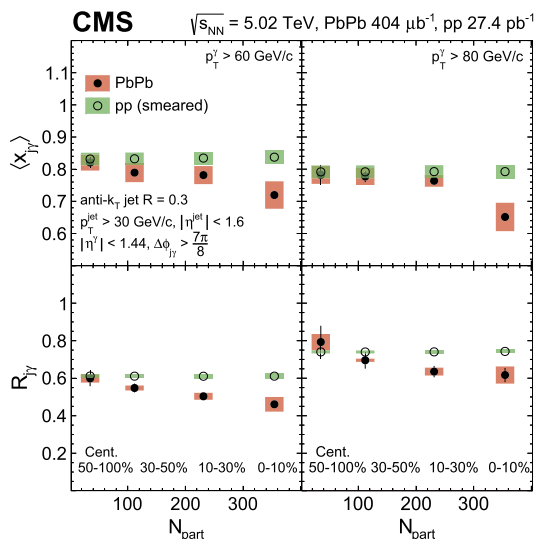
Fig. 7 shows  $\langle x_{j\gamma} \rangle$  and  $R_{j\gamma}$  in pp and PbPb collisions as a function of event centrality, quantified by  $\langle N_{\text{part}} \rangle$ , which is the mean number of participating nucleons within a given centrality interval. The  $\langle N_{\text{part}} \rangle$  values are estimated from a MC Glauber model [15, 59]. In central collisions, a suppression of both  $\langle x_{j\gamma} \rangle$  and  $R_{j\gamma}$  is observed in comparison to the smeared pp reference data, con-



**Fig. 5.** The  $I_{AA}^{\text{jet}}$  vs.  $p_T^{\text{jet}}$  for 0–30% centrality (top) and 30–100% centrality (bottom) PbPb collisions. The vertical lines (bands) through the points represent statistical (systematic) uncertainties.



**Fig. 6.** The centrality dependence of  $x_{j\gamma}$  of photon+jet pairs normalized by the number of photons for PbPb (full markers) and smeared pp (open markers) data. The vertical lines (bands) through the points represent statistical (systematic) uncertainties.



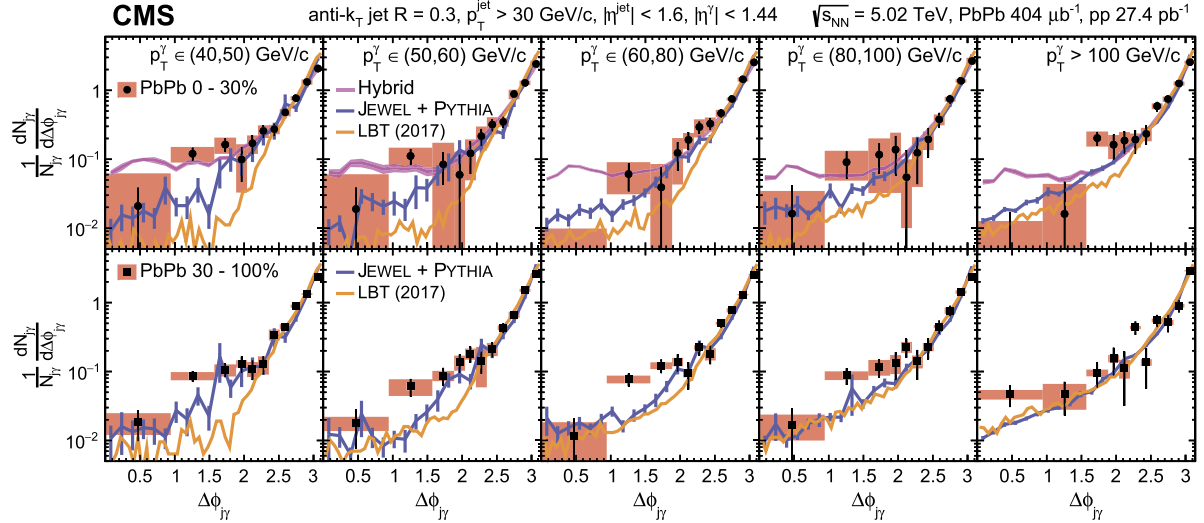
**Fig. 7.** The  $\langle x_{j\gamma} \rangle$  (top) and  $R_{j\gamma}$  (bottom) as a function of  $\langle N_{\text{part}} \rangle$  for  $p_T^{\gamma} > 60$  GeV/c (left) and  $p_T^{\gamma} > 80$  GeV/c (right). The PbPb results (full markers) are compared to pp results (open markers) smeared by the relative jet energy resolution corresponding to each centrality interval. The vertical lines (bands) through the points represent statistical (systematic) uncertainties.

sistent with significant in-medium energy loss of the associated jets.

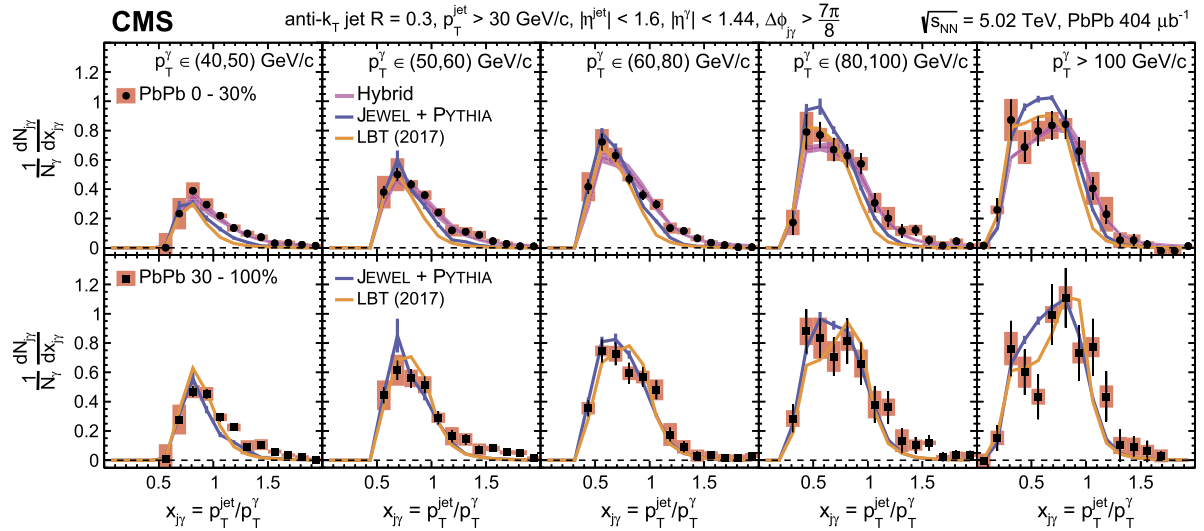
#### 4.5. Comparison to theoretical models

The results for PbPb collisions presented in Fig. 2 for  $\Delta\phi_{j\gamma}$  and Fig. 3 for  $x_{j\gamma}$  are compared with several theoretical calculations with different approaches to modeling the jet energy loss in Figs. 8 and 9, respectively. The  $x_{j\gamma}$  distributions assumed by the different model calculations in pp collisions are compared to the unsmeared pp data in Fig. 10. The JEWEL model is a dynamical, perturbative framework for jet quenching, which has been extended to simulate boson-jet events [37,60]. The LBT 2017 model [34] uses a linearized Boltzmann transport model for jet propagation through the medium, including the recoiled medium partons in the reconstruction of the partonic jets. The hybrid model [35,36] combines a perturbative description of the weakly coupled physics of jet production and evolution with a gauge/gravity duality description of the strongly coupled dynamics of the medium, and of the soft exchanges between the jet and the medium. The calculations from the JEWEL and hybrid models have been smeared to the corresponding JER in pp or PbPb collisions.

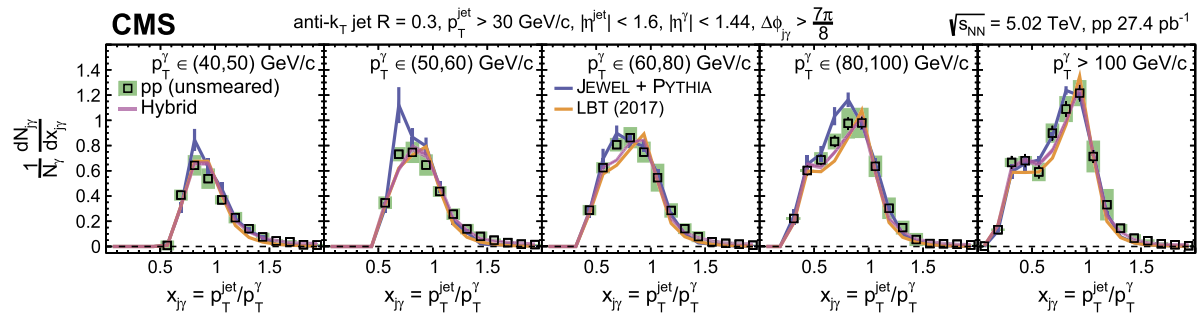
Predictions from the JEWEL and hybrid models have previously shown reasonable agreement with measurements of inclusive jet nuclear modification factors [36,61]. For the results reported in this Letter, all models describe well the pp results. They also capture the general features of the 0–30% PbPb data, although the hybrid model appears to better describe the  $x_{j\gamma}$  results. As shown in Fig. 9, the JEWEL and LBT models appear to underestimate the  $x_{j\gamma}$  spectra in the high  $x_{j\gamma}$  region ( $x_{j\gamma} > 0.9$ ) for central PbPb col-



**Fig. 8.** The azimuthal correlation of photons and jets in five  $p_T^\gamma$  intervals for 0–30% centrality (top, full circles) and 30–100% centrality (bottom, full squares) PbPb collisions. The data points shown are identical to those in Fig. 2. Theoretical calculations from JEWEL [37,60], LBT [34], and hybrid model [35,36] are included for comparison.



**Fig. 9.** The  $x_{j\gamma}$  distributions in five  $p_T^\gamma$  intervals for 0–30% centrality (top, full circles) and 30–100% centrality (bottom, full squares) PbPb collisions. The data points shown are identical to those in Fig. 3. Theoretical calculations from JEWEL [37,60], LBT [34], and hybrid model [35,36] are included for comparison.



**Fig. 10.** The  $x_{j\gamma}$  distributions in five  $p_T^\gamma$  intervals for unsmeared pp data (full squares). The  $x_{j\gamma}$  distributions in pp collisions assumed by the JEWEL [37,60], LBT [34], and hybrid models [35,36] discussed in this Letter are also shown for comparison.

lisions, which suggests that the amount of energy transported out of the jet cone is larger in these models than in data. A similar effect is also hinted at in the 30–100% PbPb data, which can be attributed to the fact that those distributions are dominated by events in the 30–50% centrality interval, where energy loss effects

are still significant. The models are also consistent with data in that none of them show a broadening of the observed  $\Delta\phi_{j\gamma}$  distributions in PbPb compared to pp collisions in the photon and jet kinematic ranges presented, despite their implementing contributions from partonic collisions.



## 5. Summary

Correlations of isolated photons with transverse momentum  $p_T^\gamma > 40$  GeV/c and pseudorapidity  $|\eta^\gamma| < 1.44$  and associated jets with  $p_T^{\text{jet}} > 30$  GeV/c and  $|\eta^{\text{jet}}| < 1.6$ , have been studied for the first time in pp and PbPb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02$  TeV, using a large data sample collected by the CMS experiment. No significant azimuthal angular broadening between photons and the associated jets is observed in PbPb data as compared to pp data, for all event centralities and multiple photon  $p_T$  intervals. The  $x_{j\gamma} = p_T^{\text{jet}}/p_T^\gamma$  and the average number of associated jets per photon,  $R_{j\gamma}$ , are studied in different leading photon  $p_T$  and PbPb collision centrality intervals. For all  $p_T^\gamma > 60$  GeV/c intervals, the  $\langle x_{j\gamma} \rangle$  and  $R_{j\gamma}$  values in the 0–30% most central PbPb collisions are found to be lower than those in the corresponding pp reference data, indicating that a larger fraction of jets lose energy and thus fall below 30 GeV/c in PbPb collisions. The differences between the pp and PbPb results increase as collisions become more central. A shift of the jet spectra towards lower  $p_T^{\text{jet}}$  is observed when comparing the yields of associated jets in the 0–30% most central PbPb collisions to those in pp collisions. These new results are qualitatively similar to those reported at  $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 2.76$  TeV and to calculations from various theoretical models. The better statistical precision of the new higher energy data provides an opportunity to test theoretical models against data over a wide kinematic range in  $p_T^\gamma$  and  $x_{j\gamma}$ , and for different event centralities, using a selection of partons with defined flavor (quark/gluon) and initial kinematics.

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## The CMS Collaboration

A.M. Sirunyan, A. Tumasyan

Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia

W. Adam, F. Ambroggi, E. Asilar, T. Bergauer, J. Brandstetter, E. Brondolin, M. Dragicevic, J. Erö, M. Flechl, M. Friedl, R. Frühwirth<sup>1</sup>, V.M. Ghete, J. Grossmann, J. Hrubec, M. Jeitler<sup>1</sup>, A. König, N. Kramer,

I. Krätschmer, D. Liko, T. Madlener, I. Mikulec, E. Pree, N. Rad, H. Rohringer, J. Schieck<sup>1</sup>, R. Schöfbeck, M. Spanring, D. Spitzbart, W. Waltenberger, J. Wittmann, C.-E. Wulz<sup>1</sup>, M. Zarucki

*Institut für Hochenergiephysik, Wien, Austria*

V. Chekhovsky, V. Mossolov, J. Suarez Gonzalez

*Institute for Nuclear Problems, Minsk, Belarus*

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

*Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium*

S. Abu Zeid, F. Blekman, J. D'Hondt, I. De Bruyn, J. De Clercq, K. Deroover, G. Flouris, D. Lontkovskiy, S. Lowette, I. Marchesini, S. Moortgat, L. Moreels, Q. Python, K. Skovpen, S. Tavernier, W. Van Doninck, P. Van Mulders, I. Van Parijs

*Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium*

D. Beghin, H. Brun, B. Clerboux, G. De Lentdecker, H. Delannoy, B. Dorney, G. Fasanella, L. Favart, R. Goldouzian, A. Grebenyuk, T. Lenzi, J. Luetic, T. Maerschalk, A. Marinov, T. Seva, E. Starling, C. Vander Velde, P. Vanlaer, D. Vannerom, R. Yonamine, F. Zenoni, F. Zhang<sup>2</sup>

*Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium*

A. Cimmino, T. Cornelis, D. Dobur, A. Fagot, M. Gul, I. Khvastunov<sup>3</sup>, D. Poyraz, C. Roskas, S. Salva, M. Tytgat, W. Verbeke, N. Zaganidis

*Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium*

H. Bakhshiansohi, O. Bondu, S. Brochet, G. Bruno, C. Caputo, A. Caudron, P. David, S. De Visscher, C. Delaere, M. Delcourt, B. Francois, A. Giammanco, M. Komm, G. Krintiras, V. Lemaitre, A. Magitteri, A. Mertens, M. Musich, K. Piotrkowski, L. Quertenmont, A. Saggio, M. Vidal Marono, S. Wertz, J. Zobec

*Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium*

W.L. Aldá Júnior, F.L. Alves, G.A. Alves, L. Brito, M. Correa Martins Junior, C. Hensel, A. Moraes, M.E. Pol, P. Rebello Teles

*Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

E. Belchior Batista Das Chagas, W. Carvalho, J. Chinellato<sup>4</sup>, E. Coelho, E.M. Da Costa, G.G. Da Silveira<sup>5</sup>, D. De Jesus Damiao, S. Fonseca De Souza, L.M. Huertas Guativa, H. Malbouisson, M. Melo De Almeida, C. Mora Herrera, L. Mundim, H. Nogima, L.J. Sanchez Rosas, A. Santoro, A. Sznajder, M. Thiel, E.J. Tonelli Manganote<sup>4</sup>, F. Torres Da Silva De Araujo, A. Vilela Pereira

*Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

S. Ahuja<sup>a</sup>, C.A. Bernardes<sup>a</sup>, T.R. Fernandez Perez Tomei<sup>a</sup>, E.M. Gregores<sup>b</sup>, P.G. Mercadante<sup>b</sup>, S.F. Novaes<sup>a</sup>, Sandra S. Padula<sup>a</sup>, D. Romero Abad<sup>b</sup>, J.C. Ruiz Vargas<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Universidade Estadual Paulista, São Paulo, Brazil*

<sup>b</sup> *Universidade Federal do ABC, São Paulo, Brazil*

A. Aleksandrov, R. Hadjiiska, P. Iaydjiev, M. Misheva, M. Rodozov, M. Shopova, G. Sultanov

*Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria*

A. Dimitrov, L. Litov, B. Pavlov, P. Petkov

*University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria*

W. Fang<sup>6</sup>, X. Gao<sup>6</sup>, L. Yuan

*Beihang University, Beijing, China*

M. Ahmad, J.G. Bian, G.M. Chen, H.S. Chen, M. Chen, Y. Chen, C.H. Jiang, D. Leggat, H. Liao, Z. Liu, F. Romeo, S.M. Shaheen, A. Spiezia, J. Tao, C. Wang, Z. Wang, E. Yazgan, H. Zhang, S. Zhang, J. Zhao

*Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing, China*

Y. Ban, G. Chen, J. Li, Q. Li, S. Liu, Y. Mao, S.J. Qian, D. Wang, Z. Xu

*State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, Peking University, Beijing, China*

C. Avila, A. Cabrera, L.F. Chaparro Sierra, C. Florez, C.F. González Hernández, J.D. Ruiz Alvarez, M.A. Segura Delgado

*Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia*

B. Courbon, N. Godinovic, D. Lelas, I. Puljak, P.M. Ribeiro Cipriano, T. Sculac

*University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, Split, Croatia*

Z. Antunovic, M. Kovac

*University of Split, Faculty of Science, Split, Croatia*

V. Brigljevic, D. Ferencek, K. Kadija, B. Mesic, A. Starodumov<sup>7</sup>, T. Susa

*Institute Rudjer Boskovic, Zagreb, Croatia*

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

*University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus*

M. Finger<sup>8</sup>, M. Finger Jr.<sup>8</sup>

*Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic*

E. Carrera Jarrin

*Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Quito, Ecuador*

E. El-khateeb<sup>9</sup>, S. Elgammal<sup>10</sup>, A. Ellithi Kamel<sup>11</sup>

*Academy of Scientific Research and Technology of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Egyptian Network of High Energy Physics, Cairo, Egypt*

R.K. Dewanjee, M. Kadastik, L. Perrini, M. Raidal, A. Tiko, C. Veelken

*National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia*

P. Eerola, H. Kirschenmann, J. Pekkanen, M. Voutilainen

*Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland*

J. Havukainen, J.K. Heikkilä, T. Järvinen, V. Karimäki, R. Kinnunen, T. Lampén, K. Lassila-Perini, S. Laurila, S. Lehti, T. Lindén, P. Luukka, H. Siikonen, E. Tuominen, J. Tuominiemi

*Helsinki Institute of Physics, Helsinki, Finland*

T. Tuuva

*Lappeenranta University of Technology, Lappeenranta, Finland*

M. Besancon, F. Couderc, M. Dejardin, D. Denegri, J.L. Faure, F. Ferri, S. Ganjour, S. Ghosh, P. Gras, G. Hamel de Monchenault, P. Jarry, I. Kucher, C. Leloup, E. Locci, M. Mached, J. Malcles, G. Negro, J. Rander, A. Rosowsky, M.Ö. Sahin, M. Titov

*IRFU, CEA, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France*



A. Abdulsalam, C. Amendola, I. Antropov, S. Baffioni, F. Beaudette, P. Busson, L. Cadamuro, C. Charlot, R. Granier de Cassagnac, M. Jo, S. Lisniak, A. Lobanov, J. Martin Blanco, M. Nguyen, C. Ochando, G. Ortona, P. Paganini, P. Pigard, R. Salerno, J.B. Sauvan, Y. Sirois, A.G. Stahl Leitton, T. Strebler, Y. Yilmaz, A. Zabi, A. Zghiche

*Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, Ecole polytechnique, CNRS/IN2P3, Université Paris-Saclay, Palaiseau, France*

J.-L. Agram<sup>12</sup>, J. Andrea, D. Bloch, J.-M. Brom, M. Buttignol, E.C. Chabert, N. Chanon, C. Collard, E. Conte<sup>12</sup>, X. Coubez, J.-C. Fontaine<sup>12</sup>, D. Gelé, U. Goerlach, M. Jansová, A.-C. Le Bihan, N. Tonon, P. Van Hove

*Université de Strasbourg, CNRS, IPHC UMR 7178, F-67000 Strasbourg, France*

S. Gadrat

*Centre de Calcul de l'Institut National de Physique Nucléaire et de Physique des Particules, CNRS/IN2P3, Villeurbanne, France*

S. Beauceron, C. Bernet, G. Boudoul, R. Chierici, D. Contardo, P. Depasse, H. El Mamouni, J. Fay, L. Finco, S. Gascon, M. Gouzevitch, G. Grenier, B. Ille, F. Lagarde, I.B. Laktineh, M. Lethuillier, L. Mirabito, A.L. Pequegnot, S. Perries, A. Popov<sup>13</sup>, V. Sordini, M. Vander Donckt, S. Viret

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

A. Khvedelidze<sup>8</sup>

*Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi, Georgia*

I. Bagaturia<sup>14</sup>

*Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia*

C. Autermann, L. Feld, M.K. Kiesel, K. Klein, M. Lipinski, M. Preuten, C. Schomakers, J. Schulz, V. Zhukov<sup>13</sup>

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

A. Albert, E. Dietz-Laursonn, D. Duchardt, M. Endres, M. Erdmann, S. Erdweg, T. Esch, R. Fischer, A. Güth, M. Hamer, T. Hebbeker, C. Heidemann, K. Hoepfner, S. Knutzen, M. Merschmeyer, A. Meyer, P. Millet, S. Mukherjee, T. Pook, M. Radziej, H. Reithler, M. Rieger, F. Scheuch, D. Teyssier, S. Thüer

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

G. Flügge, B. Kargoll, T. Kress, A. Künsken, T. Müller, A. Nehr Korn, A. Nowack, C. Pistone, O. Pooth, A. Stahl<sup>15</sup>

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

M. Aldaya Martin, T. Arndt, C. Asawatrangkuldee, K. Beernaert, O. Behnke, U. Behrens, A. Bermúdez Martínez, A.A. Bin Anuar, K. Borras<sup>16</sup>, V. Botta, A. Campbell, P. Connor, C. Contreras-Campana, F. Costanza, C. Diez Pardos, G. Eckerlin, D. Eckstein, T. Eichhorn, E. Eren, E. Gallo<sup>17</sup>, J. Garay Garcia, A. Geiser, J.M. Grados Luyando, A. Grohsjean, P. Gunnellini, M. Guthoff, A. Harb, J. Hauk, M. Hempel<sup>18</sup>, H. Jung, M. Kasemann, J. Keaveney, C. Kleinwort, I. Korol, D. Krücker, W. Lange, A. Lelek, T. Lenz, J. Leonard, K. Lipka, W. Lohmann<sup>18</sup>, R. Mankel, I.-A. Melzer-Pellmann, A.B. Meyer, G. Mittag, J. Mnich, A. Mussgiller, E. Ntomari, D. Pitzl, A. Raspereza, M. Savitskyi, P. Saxena, R. Shevchenko, S. Spannagel, N. Stefaniuk, G.P. Van Onsem, R. Walsh, Y. Wen, K. Wichmann, C. Wissing, O. Zenaiev

*Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany*

R. Aggleton, S. Bein, V. Blobel, M. Centis Vignali, T. Dreyer, E. Garutti, D. Gonzalez, J. Haller, A. Hinzmann, M. Hoffmann, A. Karavdina, R. Klanner, R. Kogler, N. Kovalchuk, S. Kurz, T. Lapsien, D. Marconi, M. Meyer, M. Niedziela, D. Nowatschin, F. Pantaleo<sup>15</sup>, T. Peiffer, A. Perieanu, C. Scharf,



P. Schleper, A. Schmidt, S. Schumann, J. Schwandt, J. Sonneveld, H. Stadie, G. Steinbrück, F.M. Stober, M. Stöver, H. Tholen, D. Troendle, E. Usai, A. Vanhoefer, B. Vormwald

*University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany*

M. Akbiyik, C. Barth, M. Baselga, S. Baur, E. Butz, R. Caspart, T. Chwalek, F. Colombo, W. De Boer, A. Dierlamm, N. Faltermann, B. Freund, R. Friese, M. Giffels, M.A. Harrendorf, F. Hartmann<sup>15</sup>, S.M. Heindl, U. Husemann, F. Kassel<sup>15</sup>, S. Kudella, H. Mildner, M.U. Mozer, Th. Müller, M. Plagge, G. Quast, K. Rabbertz, M. Schröder, I. Shvetsov, G. Sieber, H.J. Simonis, R. Ulrich, S. Wayand, M. Weber, T. Weiler, S. Williamson, C. Wöhrmann, R. Wolf

*Institut für Experimentelle Kernphysik, Karlsruhe, Germany*

G. Anagnostou, G. Daskalakis, T. Geralis, A. Kyriakis, D. Loukas, I. Topsis-Giotis

*Institute of Nuclear and Particle Physics (INPP), NCSR Demokritos, Aghia Paraskevi, Greece*

G. Karathanasis, S. Kesisoglou, A. Panagiotou, N. Saoulidou

*National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece*

K. Kousouris

*National Technical University of Athens, Athens, Greece*

I. Evangelou, C. Foudas, P. Giannelis, P. Katsoulis, P. Kokkas, S. Mallios, N. Manthos, I. Papadopoulos, E. Paradas, J. Strologas, F.A. Triantis, D. Tsitsonis

*University of Ioánnina, Ioánnina, Greece*

M. Csanad, N. Filipovic, G. Pasztor, O. Surányi, G.I. Veres<sup>19</sup>

*MTA-ELTE Lendület CMS Particle and Nuclear Physics Group, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary*

G. Bencze, C. Hajdu, D. Horvath<sup>20</sup>, Á. Hunyadi, F. Sikler, V. Veszpremi

*Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary*

N. Beni, S. Czellar, J. Karancsi<sup>21</sup>, A. Makovec, J. Molnar, Z. Szillasi

*Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary*

M. Bartók<sup>19</sup>, P. Raics, Z.L. Trocsanyi, B. Ujvari

*Institute of Physics, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary*

S. Choudhury, J.R. Komaragiri

*Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, India*

S. Bahinipati<sup>22</sup>, S. Bhowmik, P. Mal, K. Mandal, A. Nayak<sup>23</sup>, D.K. Sahoo<sup>22</sup>, N. Sahoo, S.K. Swain

*National Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhubaneswar, India*

S. Bansal, S.B. Beri, V. Bhatnagar, R. Chawla, N. Dhingra, A.K. Kalsi, A. Kaur, M. Kaur, S. Kaur, R. Kumar, P. Kumari, A. Mehta, J.B. Singh, G. Walia

*Panjab University, Chandigarh, India*

A. Bhardwaj, S. Chauhan, B.C. Choudhary, R.B. Garg, S. Keshri, A. Kumar, Ashok Kumar, S. Malhotra, M. Naimuddin, K. Ranjan, Aashaq Shah, R. Sharma

*University of Delhi, Delhi, India*

R. Bhardwaj, R. Bhattacharya, S. Bhattacharya, U. Bhawandeep, S. Dey, S. Dutt, S. Dutta, S. Ghosh, N. Majumdar, A. Modak, K. Mondal, S. Mukhopadhyay, S. Nandan, A. Purohit, A. Roy, S. Roy Chowdhury, S. Sarkar, M. Sharan, S. Thakur

*Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, HBNI, Kolkata, India*

P.K. Behera

*Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Madras, India*

R. Chudasama, D. Dutta, V. Jha, V. Kumar, A.K. Mohanty<sup>15</sup>, P.K. Netrakanti, L.M. Pant, P. Shukla, A. Topkar

*Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, India*

T. Aziz, S. Dugad, B. Mahakud, S. Mitra, G.B. Mohanty, N. Sur, B. Sutar

*Tata Institute of Fundamental Research-A, Mumbai, India*

S. Banerjee, S. Bhattacharya, S. Chatterjee, P. Das, M. Guchait, Sa. Jain, S. Kumar, M. Maity<sup>24</sup>, G. Majumder, K. Mazumdar, T. Sarkar<sup>24</sup>, N. Wickramage<sup>25</sup>

*Tata Institute of Fundamental Research-B, Mumbai, India*

S. Chauhan, S. Dube, V. Hegde, A. Kapoor, K. Kothekar, S. Pandey, A. Rane, S. Sharma

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

S. Chenarani<sup>26</sup>, E. Eskandari Tadavani, S.M. Etesami<sup>26</sup>, M. Khakzad, M. Mohammadi Najafabadi, M. Naseri, S. Paktinat Mehdiabadi<sup>27</sup>, F. Rezaei Hosseinabadi, B. Safarzadeh<sup>28</sup>, M. Zeinali

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

M. Felcini, M. Grunewald

*University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland*

M. Abbrescia<sup>a,b</sup>, C. Calabria<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Colaleo<sup>a</sup>, D. Creanza<sup>a,c</sup>, L. Cristella<sup>a,b</sup>, N. De Filippis<sup>a,c</sup>, M. De Palma<sup>a,b</sup>, F. Errico<sup>a,b</sup>, L. Fiore<sup>a</sup>, G. Iaselli<sup>a,c</sup>, S. Lezki<sup>a,b</sup>, G. Maggi<sup>a,c</sup>, M. Maggi<sup>a</sup>, G. Miniello<sup>a,b</sup>, S. My<sup>a,b</sup>, S. Nuzzo<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Pompili<sup>a,b</sup>, G. Pugliese<sup>a,c</sup>, R. Radogna<sup>a</sup>, A. Ranieri<sup>a</sup>, G. Selvaggi<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Sharma<sup>a</sup>, L. Silvestris<sup>a,15</sup>, R. Venditti<sup>a</sup>, P. Verwilligen<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> INFN Sezione di Bari, Bari, Italy

<sup>b</sup> Università di Bari, Bari, Italy

<sup>c</sup> Politecnico di Bari, Bari, Italy

G. Abbiendi<sup>a</sup>, C. Battilana<sup>a,b</sup>, D. Bonacorsi<sup>a,b</sup>, L. Borghonovi<sup>a,b</sup>, S. Braibant-Giacomelli<sup>a,b</sup>, R. Campanini<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Capiluppi<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Castro<sup>a,b</sup>, F.R. Cavallo<sup>a</sup>, S.S. Chhibra<sup>a</sup>, G. Codispoti<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Cuffiani<sup>a,b</sup>, G.M. Dallavalle<sup>a</sup>, F. Fabbri<sup>a</sup>, A. Fanfani<sup>a,b</sup>, D. Fasanella<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Giacomelli<sup>a</sup>, C. Grandi<sup>a</sup>, L. Guiducci<sup>a,b</sup>, S. Marcellini<sup>a</sup>, G. Masetti<sup>a</sup>, A. Montanari<sup>a</sup>, F.L. Navarria<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Perrotta<sup>a</sup>, A.M. Rossi<sup>a,b</sup>, T. Rovelli<sup>a,b</sup>, G.P. Siroli<sup>a,b</sup>, N. Tosi<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> INFN Sezione di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

<sup>b</sup> Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

S. Albergo<sup>a,b</sup>, S. Costa<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Di Mattia<sup>a</sup>, F. Giordano<sup>a,b</sup>, R. Potenza<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Tricomi<sup>a,b</sup>, C. Tuve<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> INFN Sezione di Catania, Catania, Italy

<sup>b</sup> Università di Catania, Catania, Italy

G. Barbagli<sup>a</sup>, K. Chatterjee<sup>a,b</sup>, V. Ciulli<sup>a,b</sup>, C. Civinini<sup>a</sup>, R. D'Alessandro<sup>a,b</sup>, E. Focardi<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Lenzi<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Meschini<sup>a</sup>, S. Paoletti<sup>a</sup>, L. Russo<sup>a,29</sup>, G. Sguazzoni<sup>a</sup>, D. Strom<sup>a</sup>, L. Viliani<sup>a,b,15</sup>

<sup>a</sup> INFN Sezione di Firenze, Firenze, Italy

<sup>b</sup> Università di Firenze, Firenze, Italy

L. Benussi, S. Bianco, F. Fabbri, D. Piccolo, F. Primavera<sup>15</sup>

*INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy*

V. Calvelli<sup>a,b</sup>, F. Ferro<sup>a</sup>, E. Robutti<sup>a</sup>, S. Tosi<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *INFN Sezione di Genova, Genova, Italy*

<sup>b</sup> *Università di Genova, Genova, Italy*

A. Benaglia<sup>a</sup>, A. Beschi<sup>b</sup>, L. Brianza<sup>a,b</sup>, F. Brivio<sup>a,b</sup>, V. Ciriolo<sup>a,b,15</sup>, M.E. Dinardo<sup>a,b</sup>, S. Fiorendi<sup>a,b</sup>, S. Gennai<sup>a</sup>, A. Ghezzi<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Govoni<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Malberti<sup>a,b</sup>, S. Malvezzi<sup>a</sup>, R.A. Manzoni<sup>a,b</sup>, D. Menasce<sup>a</sup>, L. Moroni<sup>a</sup>, M. Paganoni<sup>a,b</sup>, K. Pauwels<sup>a,b</sup>, D. Pedrini<sup>a</sup>, S. Pigazzini<sup>a,b,30</sup>, S. Ragazzi<sup>a,b</sup>, T. Tabarelli de Fatis<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *INFN Sezione di Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy*

<sup>b</sup> *Università di Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy*

S. Buontempo<sup>a</sup>, N. Cavallo<sup>a,c</sup>, S. Di Guida<sup>a,d,15</sup>, F. Fabozzi<sup>a,c</sup>, F. Fienga<sup>a,b</sup>, A.O.M. Iorio<sup>a,b</sup>, W.A. Khan<sup>a</sup>, L. Lista<sup>a</sup>, S. Meola<sup>a,d,15</sup>, P. Paolucci<sup>a,15</sup>, C. Sciacca<sup>a,b</sup>, F. Thyssen<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *INFN Sezione di Napoli, Napoli, Italy*

<sup>b</sup> *Università di Napoli 'Federico II', Napoli, Italy*

<sup>c</sup> *Università della Basilicata, Potenza, Italy*

<sup>d</sup> *Università G. Marconi, Roma, Italy*

P. Azzi<sup>a</sup>, N. Bacchetta<sup>a</sup>, L. Benato<sup>a,b</sup>, D. Bisello<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Boletti<sup>a,b</sup>, R. Carlin<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Checchia<sup>a</sup>, M. Dall'Osso<sup>a,b</sup>, P. De Castro Manzano<sup>a</sup>, T. Dorigo<sup>a</sup>, U. Dosselli<sup>a</sup>, F. Gasparini<sup>a,b</sup>, U. Gasparini<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Gozzelino<sup>a</sup>, S. Lacaprara<sup>a</sup>, P. Lujan, M. Margoni<sup>a,b</sup>, A.T. Meneguzzo<sup>a,b</sup>, N. Pozzobon<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Ronchese<sup>a,b</sup>, R. Rossin<sup>a,b</sup>, F. Simonetto<sup>a,b</sup>, E. Torassa<sup>a</sup>, M. Zanetti<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Zotto<sup>a,b</sup>, G. Zumerle<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *INFN Sezione di Padova, Padova, Italy*

<sup>b</sup> *Università di Padova, Padova, Italy*

<sup>c</sup> *Università di Trento, Trento, Italy*

A. Braghieri<sup>a</sup>, A. Magnani<sup>a</sup>, P. Montagna<sup>a,b</sup>, S.P. Ratti<sup>a,b</sup>, V. Re<sup>a</sup>, M. Ressegotti<sup>a,b</sup>, C. Riccardi<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Salvini<sup>a</sup>, I. Vai<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Vitulo<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *INFN Sezione di Pavia, Pavia, Italy*

<sup>b</sup> *Università di Pavia, Pavia, Italy*

L. Alunni Solestizi<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Biasini<sup>a,b</sup>, G.M. Bilei<sup>a</sup>, C. Cecchi<sup>a,b</sup>, D. Ciangottini<sup>a,b</sup>, L. Fanò<sup>a,b</sup>, R. Leonardi<sup>a,b</sup>, E. Manoni<sup>a</sup>, G. Mantovani<sup>a,b</sup>, V. Mariani<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Menichelli<sup>a</sup>, A. Rossi<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Santocchia<sup>a,b</sup>, D. Spiga<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *INFN Sezione di Perugia, Perugia, Italy*

<sup>b</sup> *Università di Perugia, Perugia, Italy*

K. Androsov<sup>a</sup>, P. Azzurri<sup>a,15</sup>, G. Bagliesi<sup>a</sup>, T. Boccali<sup>a</sup>, L. Borrello, R. Castaldi<sup>a</sup>, M.A. Ciocci<sup>a,b</sup>, R. Dell'Orso<sup>a</sup>, G. Fedi<sup>a</sup>, L. Giannini<sup>a,c</sup>, A. Giassi<sup>a</sup>, M.T. Grippo<sup>a,29</sup>, F. Ligabue<sup>a,c</sup>, T. Lomtadze<sup>a</sup>, E. Manca<sup>a,c</sup>, G. Mandorli<sup>a,c</sup>, A. Messineo<sup>a,b</sup>, F. Palla<sup>a</sup>, A. Rizzi<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Savoy-Navarro<sup>a,31</sup>, P. Spagnolo<sup>a</sup>, R. Tenchini<sup>a</sup>, G. Tonelli<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Venturi<sup>a</sup>, P.G. Verdini<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *INFN Sezione di Pisa, Pisa, Italy*

<sup>b</sup> *Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy*

<sup>c</sup> *Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Pisa, Italy*

L. Barone<sup>a,b</sup>, F. Cavallari<sup>a</sup>, M. Cipriani<sup>a,b</sup>, N. Daci<sup>a</sup>, D. Del Re<sup>a,b,15</sup>, E. Di Marco<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Diemoz<sup>a</sup>, S. Gelli<sup>a,b</sup>, E. Longo<sup>a,b</sup>, F. Margaroli<sup>a,b</sup>, B. Marzocchi<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Meridiani<sup>a</sup>, G. Organtini<sup>a,b</sup>, R. Paramatti<sup>a,b</sup>, F. Preiato<sup>a,b</sup>, S. Rahatlou<sup>a,b</sup>, C. Rovelli<sup>a</sup>, F. Santanastasio<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *INFN Sezione di Roma, Rome, Italy*

<sup>b</sup> *Sapienza Università di Roma, Rome, Italy*

N. Amapane<sup>a,b</sup>, R. Arcidiacono<sup>a,c</sup>, S. Argiro<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Arneodo<sup>a,c</sup>, N. Bartosik<sup>a</sup>, R. Bellan<sup>a,b</sup>, C. Biino<sup>a</sup>, N. Cartiglia<sup>a</sup>, F. Cenna<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Costa<sup>a,b</sup>, R. Covarelli<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Degano<sup>a,b</sup>, N. Demaria<sup>a</sup>, B. Kiani<sup>a,b</sup>, C. Mariotti<sup>a</sup>, S. Maselli<sup>a</sup>, E. Migliore<sup>a,b</sup>, V. Monaco<sup>a,b</sup>, E. Monteil<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Monteno<sup>a</sup>, M.M. Obertino<sup>a,b</sup>

L. Pacher<sup>a,b</sup>, N. Pastrone<sup>a</sup>, M. Pelliccioni<sup>a</sup>, G.L. Pinna Angioni<sup>a,b</sup>, F. Ravera<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Romero<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Ruspa<sup>a,c</sup>, R. Sacchi<sup>a,b</sup>, K. Shchelina<sup>a,b</sup>, V. Sola<sup>a</sup>, A. Solano<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Staiano<sup>a</sup>, P. Traczyk<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> INFN Sezione di Torino, Torino, Italy

<sup>b</sup> Università di Torino, Torino, Italy

<sup>c</sup> Università del Piemonte Orientale, Novara, Italy

S. Belforte<sup>a</sup>, M. Casarsa<sup>a</sup>, F. Cossutti<sup>a</sup>, G. Della Ricca<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Zanetti<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> INFN Sezione di Trieste, Trieste, Italy

<sup>b</sup> Università di Trieste, Trieste, Italy

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

*Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Republic of Korea*

A. Lee

*Chonbuk National University, Jeonju, Republic of Korea*

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

*Chonnam National University, Institute for Universe and Elementary Particles, Kwangju, Republic of Korea*

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

*Hanyang University, Seoul, Republic of Korea*

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

*Korea University, Seoul, Republic of Korea*

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

*Seoul National University, Seoul, Republic of Korea*

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

*University of Seoul, Seoul, Republic of Korea*

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

*Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, Republic of Korea*

V. Dudenas, A. Juodagalvis, J. Vaitkus

*Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania*

I. Ahmed, Z.A. Ibrahim, M.A.B. Md Ali<sup>32</sup>, F. Mohamad Idris<sup>33</sup>, W.A.T. Wan Abdullah, M.N. Yusli, Z. Zolkapli

*National Centre for Particle Physics, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

M.C. Duran-Osuna, H. Castilla-Valdez, E. De La Cruz-Burelo, G. Ramirez-Sanchez, I. Heredia-De La Cruz<sup>34</sup>, R.I. Rabadan-Trejo, R. Lopez-Fernandez, J. Mejia Guisao, R. Reyes-Almanza, A. Sanchez-Hernandez

*Centro de Investigacion y de Estudios Avanzados del IPN, Mexico City, Mexico*

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

*Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico*

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

*Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, Puebla, Mexico*

**A. Morelos Pineda***Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, San Luis Potosí, Mexico***D. Krofcheck***University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand***P.H. Butler***University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand***A. Ahmad, M. Ahmad, Q. Hassan, H.R. Hoorani, A. Saddique, M.A. Shah, M. Shoaib, M. Waqas***National Centre for Physics, Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan***H. Bialkowska, M. Bluj, B. Boimska, T. Frueboes, M. Górski, M. Kazana, K. Nawrocki, M. Szleper, P. Zalewski***National Centre for Nuclear Research, Swierk, Poland***K. Bunkowski, A. Byszuk<sup>35</sup>, K. Doroba, A. Kalinowski, M. Konecki, J. Krolikowski, M. Misiura, M. Olszewski, A. Pyskir, M. Walczak***Institute of Experimental Physics, Faculty of Physics, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland***P. Bargassa, C. Beirão Da Cruz E Silva, A. Di Francesco, P. Faccioli, B. Galinhas, M. Gallinaro, J. Hollar, N. Leonardo, L. Lloret Iglesias, M.V. Nemallapudi, J. Seixas, G. Strong, O. Toldaiev, D. Vadrucio, J. Varela***Laboratório de Instrumentação e Física Experimental de Partículas, Lisboa, Portugal***A. Baginyan, A. Golunov, I. Golutvin, V. Karjavin, I. Kashunin, V. Korenkov, G. Kozlov, A. Lanev, A. Malakhov, V. Matveev<sup>36,37</sup>, V. Palichik, V. Perelygin, S. Shmatov, N. Skatchkov, V. Smirnov, V. Trofimov, B.S. Yuldashev<sup>38</sup>, A. Zarubin***Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia***Y. Ivanov, V. Kim<sup>39</sup>, E. Kuznetsova<sup>40</sup>, P. Levchenko, V. Murzin, V. Oreshkin, I. Smirnov, D. Sosnov, V. Sulimov, L. Uvarov, S. Vavilov, A. Vorobyev***Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina (St. Petersburg), Russia***Yu. Andreev, A. Dermenev, S. Gninenko, N. Golubev, A. Karneyeu, M. Kirsanov, N. Krasnikov, A. Pashenkov, D. Tlisov, A. Toropin***Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia***V. Epshteyn, V. Gavrilo, N. Lychkovskaya, V. Popov, I. Pozdnyakov, G. Safronov, A. Spiridonov, A. Stepenov, M. Toms, E. Vlasov, A. Zhokin***Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia***T. Aushev, A. Bylinkin<sup>37</sup>***Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Moscow, Russia***M. Chadeeva<sup>41</sup>, P. Parygin, D. Philippov, S. Polikarpov, E. Popova, V. Rusinov***National Research Nuclear University 'Moscow Engineering Physics Institute' (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia***V. Andreev, M. Azarkin<sup>37</sup>, I. Dremin<sup>37</sup>, M. Kirakosyan<sup>37</sup>, A. Terkulov***P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia*



A. Baskakov, A. Belyaev, E. Boos, A. Ershov, A. Gribushin, A. Kaminskiy<sup>42</sup>, O. Kodolova, V. Korotkikh, I. Lokhtin, I. Míagkov, S. Obraztsov, S. Petrushanko, V. Savrin, A. Snigirev, I. Vardanyan

*Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia*

V. Blinov<sup>43</sup>, D. Shtol<sup>43</sup>, Y. Skovpen<sup>43</sup>

*Novosibirsk State University (NSU), Novosibirsk, Russia*

I. Azhgirey, I. Bayshev, S. Bitioukov, D. Elumakhov, A. Godizov, V. Kachanov, A. Kalinin, D. Konstantinov, P. Mandrik, V. Petrov, R. Ryutin, A. Sobol, S. Troshin, N. Tyurin, A. Uzunian, A. Volkov

*State Research Center of Russian Federation, Institute for High Energy Physics, Protvino, Russia*

P. Adzic<sup>44</sup>, P. Cirkovic, D. Devetak, M. Dordevic, J. Milosevic, V. Rekovic

*University of Belgrade, Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia*

J. Alcaraz Maestre, A. Álvarez Fernández, I. Bachiller, M. Barrio Luna, M. Cerrada, N. Colino, B. De La Cruz, A. Delgado Peris, A. Escalante Del Valle, C. Fernandez Bedoya, J.P. Fernández Ramos, J. Flix, M.C. Fouz, O. Gonzalez Lopez, S. Goy Lopez, J.M. Hernandez, M.I. Josa, D. Moran, A. Pérez-Calero Yzquierdo, J. Puerta Pelayo, A. Quintario Olmeda, I. Redondo, L. Romero, M.S. Soares

*Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT), Madrid, Spain*

C. Albajar, J.F. de Trocóniz, M. Missiroli

*Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain*

J. Cuevas, C. Erice, J. Fernandez Menendez, I. Gonzalez Caballero, J.R. González Fernández, E. Palencia Cortezon, S. Sanchez Cruz, P. Vischia, J.M. Vizán García

*Universidad de Oviedo, Oviedo, Spain*

I.J. Cabrillo, A. Calderon, B. Chazin Quero, E. Curras, J. Duarte Campderros, M. Fernandez, J. Garcia-Ferrero, G. Gomez, A. Lopez Virto, J. Marco, C. Martinez Rivero, P. Martinez Ruiz del Arbol, F. Matorras, J. Piedra Gomez, T. Rodrigo, A. Ruiz-Jimeno, L. Scodellaro, N. Trevisani, I. Vila, R. Vilar Cortabitarte

*Instituto de Física de Cantabria (IFCA), CSIC-Universidad de Cantabria, Santander, Spain*

D. Abbaneo, B. Akgun, E. Auffray, P. Baillon, A.H. Ball, D. Barney, J. Bendavid, M. Bianco, P. Bloch, A. Bocci, C. Botta, T. Camporesi, R. Castello, M. Cepeda, G. Cerminara, E. Chapon, Y. Chen, D. d’Enterria, A. Dabrowski, V. Daponte, A. David, M. De Gruttola, A. De Roeck, N. Deelen, M. Dobson, T. du Pree, M. Dünser, N. Dupont, A. Elliott-Peisert, P. Everaerts, F. Fallavollita, G. Franzoni, J. Fulcher, W. Funk, D. Gigi, A. Gilbert, K. Gill, F. Glege, D. Gulhan, P. Harris, J. Hegeman, V. Innocente, A. Jafari, P. Janot, O. Karacheban<sup>18</sup>, J. Kieseler, V. Knünz, A. Kornmayer, M.J. Kortelainen, M. Krammer<sup>1</sup>, C. Lange, P. Lecoq, C. Lourenço, M.T. Lucchini, L. Malgeri, M. Mannelli, A. Martelli, F. Meijers, J.A. Merlin, S. Mersi, E. Meschi, P. Milenovic<sup>45</sup>, F. Moortgat, M. Mulders, H. Neugebauer, J. Ngadiuba, S. Orfanelli, L. Orsini, L. Pape, E. Perez, M. Peruzzi, A. Petrilli, G. Petrucciani, A. Pfeiffer, M. Pierini, D. Rabady, A. Racz, T. Reis, G. Rolandi<sup>46</sup>, M. Rovere, H. Sakulin, C. Schäfer, C. Schwick, M. Seidel, M. Selvaggi, A. Sharma, P. Silva, P. Sphicas<sup>47</sup>, A. Stakia, J. Steggemann, M. Stoye, M. Tosi, D. Treille, A. Triossi, A. Tsirou, V. Veckalns<sup>48</sup>, M. Verweij, W.D. Zeuner

*CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland*

W. Bertl<sup>†</sup>, L. Caminada<sup>49</sup>, K. Deiters, W. Erdmann, R. Horisberger, Q. Ingram, H.C. Kaestli, D. Kotlinski, U. Langenegger, T. Rohe, S.A. Wiederkehr

*Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland*

M. Backhaus, L. Bäni, P. Berger, L. Bianchini, B. Casal, G. Dissertori, M. Dittmar, M. Donegà, C. Dorfer, C. Grab, C. Heidegger, D. Hits, J. Hoss, G. Kasieczka, T. Klijsma, W. Lustermann, B. Mangano, M. Marionneau, M.T. Meinhard, D. Meister, F. Micheli, P. Musella, F. Nessi-Tedaldi, F. Pandolfi, J. Pata, F. Pauss, G. Perrin, L. Perrozzi, M. Quittnat, M. Reichmann, D.A. Sanz Becerra, M. Schönenberger, L. Shchutska, V.R. Tavolaro, K. Theofilatos, M.L. Vesterbacka Olsson, R. Wallny, D.H. Zhu

*ETH Zurich – Institute for Particle Physics and Astrophysics (IPA), Zurich, Switzerland*

T.K. Aarrestad, C. Amsler<sup>50</sup>, M.F. Canelli, A. De Cosa, R. Del Burgo, S. Donato, C. Galloni, T. Hreus, B. Kilminster, D. Pinna, G. Rauco, P. Robmann, D. Salerno, K. Schweiger, C. Seitz, Y. Takahashi, A. Zucchetta

*Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland*

V. Candelise, Y.H. Chang, K.y. Cheng, T.H. Doan, Sh. Jain, R. Khurana, C.M. Kuo, W. Lin, A. Pozdnyakov, S.S. Yu

*National Central University, Chung-Li, Taiwan*

P. Chang, Y. Chao, K.F. Chen, P.H. Chen, F. Fiori, W.-S. Hou, Y. Hsiung, Arun Kumar, Y.F. Liu, R.-S. Lu, E. Paganis, A. Psallidas, A. Steen, J.f. Tsai

*National Taiwan University (NTU), Taipei, Taiwan*

B. Asavapibhop, K. Kovitanggoon, G. Singh, N. Srimanobhas

*Chulalongkorn University, Faculty of Science, Department of Physics, Bangkok, Thailand*

M.N. Bakirci<sup>51</sup>, A. Bat, F. Boran, S. Damarseckin, Z.S. Demiroglu, C. Dozen, I. Dumanoglu, E. Eskut, S. Girgis, G. Gokbulut, Y. Guler, I. Hos<sup>52</sup>, E.E. Kangal<sup>53</sup>, O. Kara, U. Kiminsu, M. Oglakci, G. Onengut<sup>54</sup>, K. Ozdemir<sup>55</sup>, S. Ozturk<sup>51</sup>, A. Polatoz, U.G. Tok, S. Turkcapar, I.S. Zorbakir, C. Zorbilmez

*Çukurova University, Physics Department, Science and Art Faculty, Adana, Turkey*

B. Bilin, G. Karapinar<sup>56</sup>, K. Ocalan<sup>57</sup>, M. Yalvac, M. Zeyrek

*Middle East Technical University, Physics Department, Ankara, Turkey*

E. Gülmez, M. Kaya<sup>58</sup>, O. Kaya<sup>59</sup>, S. Tekten, E.A. Yetkin<sup>60</sup>

*Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey*

M.N. Agaras, S. Atay, A. Cakir, K. Cankocak, I. Köseoglu

*Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey*

B. Grynyov

*Institute for Scintillation Materials of National Academy of Science of Ukraine, Kharkov, Ukraine*

L. Levchuk

*National Scientific Center, Kharkov Institute of Physics and Technology, Kharkov, Ukraine*

F. Ball, L. Beck, J.J. Brooke, D. Burns, E. Clement, D. Cussans, O. Davignon, H. Flacher, J. Goldstein, G.P. Heath, H.F. Heath, L. Kreczko, D.M. Newbold<sup>61</sup>, S. Paramesvaran, T. Sakuma, S. Seif El Nasr-storey, D. Smith, V.J. Smith

*University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom*

A. Belyaev<sup>62</sup>, C. Brew, R.M. Brown, L. Calligaris, D. Cieri, D.J.A. Cockerill, J.A. Coughlan, K. Harder, S. Harper, J. Linacre, E. Olaiya, D. Petyt, C.H. Shepherd-Themistocleous, A. Thea, I.R. Tomalin, T. Williams

*Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom*

G. Auzinger, R. Bainbridge, J. Borg, S. Breeze, O. Buchmuller, A. Bundock, S. Casasso, M. Citron, D. Colling, L. Corpe, P. Dauncey, G. Davies, A. De Wit, M. Della Negra, R. Di Maria, A. Elwood, Y. Haddad, G. Hall, G. Iles, T. James, R. Lane, C. Laner, L. Lyons, A.-M. Magnan, S. Malik, L. Mastrolorenzo, T. Matsushita, J. Nash, A. Nikitenko<sup>7</sup>, V. Palladino, M. Pesaresi, D.M. Raymond, A. Richards, A. Rose, E. Scott, C. Seez, A. Shtipliyski, S. Summers, A. Tapper, K. Uchida, M. Vazquez Acosta<sup>63</sup>, T. Virdee<sup>15</sup>, N. Wardle, D. Winterbottom, J. Wright, S.C. Zenz

*Imperial College, London, United Kingdom*

J.E. Cole, P.R. Hobson, A. Khan, P. Kyberd, I.D. Reid, L. Teodorescu, S. Zahid

*Brunel University, Uxbridge, United Kingdom*

A. Borzou, K. Call, J. Dittmann, K. Hatakeyama, H. Liu, N. Pastika, C. Smith

*Baylor University, Waco, USA*

R. Bartek, A. Dominguez

*Catholic University of America, Washington DC, USA*

A. Buccilli, S.I. Cooper, C. Henderson, P. Rumerio, C. West

*The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA*

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

*Boston University, Boston, USA*

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

*Brown University, Providence, USA*

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

*University of California, Davis, Davis, USA*

M. Bachtis, C. Bravo, R. Cousins, A. Dasgupta, A. Florent, J. Hauser, M. Ignatenko, N. Mccoll, S. Regnard, D. Saltzberg, C. Schnaible, V. Valuev

*University of California, Los Angeles, USA*

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

*University of California, Riverside, Riverside, USA*

J.G. Branson, S. Cittolin, M. Derdzinski, R. Gerosa, D. Gilbert, B. Hashemi, A. Holzner, D. Klein, G. Kole, V. Krutelyov, J. Letts, I. Macneill, M. Masciovecchio, D. Olivito, S. Padhi, M. Pieri, M. Sani, V. Sharma, S. Simon, M. Tadel, A. Vartak, S. Wasserbaech<sup>64</sup>, J. Wood, F. Würthwein, A. Yagil, G. Zevi Della Porta

*University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, USA*

N. Amin, R. Bhandari, J. Bradmiller-Feld, C. Campagnari, A. Dishaw, V. Dutta, M. Franco Sevilla, F. Golf, L. Gouskos, R. Heller, J. Incandela, A. Ovcharova, H. Qu, J. Richman, D. Stuart, I. Suarez, J. Yoo

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

D. Anderson, A. Bornheim, J.M. Lawhorn, H.B. Newman, T. Nguyen, C. Pena, M. Spiropulu, J.R. Vlimant, S. Xie, Z. Zhang, R.Y. Zhu

*California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA*

M.B. Andrews, T. Ferguson, T. Mudholkar, M. Paulini, J. Russ, M. Sun, H. Vogel, I. Vorobiev, M. Weinberg

*Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA*

J.P. Cumalat, W.T. Ford, F. Jensen, A. Johnson, M. Krohn, S. Leontsinis, T. Mulholland, K. Stenson, S.R. Wagner

*University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, USA*

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

*Cornell University, Ithaca, USA*

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

*Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, USA*

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

*University of Florida, Gainesville, USA*

Y.R. Joshi, S. Linn, P. Markowitz, J.L. Rodriguez

*Florida International University, Miami, USA*

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

*Florida State University, Tallahassee, USA*

M.M. Baarmand, V. Bhopatkar, S. Colafranceschi, M. Hohlmann, D. Noonan, T. Roy, F. Yumiceva

*Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, USA*

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

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

B. Bilki<sup>65</sup>, W. Clarida, K. Dilsiz<sup>66</sup>, S. Durgut, R.P. Gandrajula, M. Haytmyradov, V. Khristenko, J.-P. Merlo, H. Mermerkaya<sup>67</sup>, A. Mestvirishvili, A. Moeller, J. Nachtman, H. Ogul<sup>68</sup>, Y. Onel, F. Ozok<sup>69</sup>, A. Penzo, C. Snyder, E. Tiras, J. Wetzel, K. Yi

*The University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA*

B. Blumenfeld, A. Cocoros, N. Eminizer, D. Fehling, L. Feng, A.V. Gritsan, P. Maksimovic, J. Roskes, U. Sarica, M. Swartz, M. Xiao, C. You

*Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA*

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

*The University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA*

A. Ivanov, K. Kaadze, Y. Maravin, A. Mohammadi, L.K. Saini, N. Skhirtladze, S. Toda

*Kansas State University, Manhattan, USA*

F. Rebassoo, D. Wright

*Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, USA*

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

*University of Maryland, College Park, USA*

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

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA*

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

*University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA*

J.G. Acosta, S. Oliveros

*University of Mississippi, Oxford, USA*

E. Avdeeva, K. Bloom, D.R. Claes, C. Fangmeier, R. Gonzalez Suarez, R. Kamalieddin, I. Kravchenko, J. Monroy, J.E. Siado, G.R. Snow, B. Stieger

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, USA*

J. Dolen, A. Godshalk, C. Harrington, I. Iashvili, D. Nguyen, A. Parker, S. Rappoccio, B. Roobahani

*State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, USA*

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

*Northeastern University, Boston, USA*

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

*Northwestern University, Evanston, USA*

R. Bucci, N. Dev, M. Hildreth, K. Hurtado Anampa, C. Jessop, D.J. Karmgard, N. Kellams, K. Lannon, W. Li, N. Loukas, N. Marinelli, F. Meng, C. Mueller, Y. Musienko<sup>36</sup>, M. Planer, A. Reinsvold, R. Ruchti, P. Siddireddy, G. Smith, S. Taroni, M. Wayne, A. Wightman, M. Wolf, A. Woodard

*University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, USA*



J. Alimena, L. Antonelli, B. Bylsma, L.S. Durkin, S. Flowers, B. Francis, A. Hart, C. Hill, W. Ji, B. Liu, W. Luo, B.L. Winer, H.W. Wulsin

*The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA*

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

*Princeton University, Princeton, USA*

S. Malik, S. Norberg

*University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, USA*

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

*Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA*

T. Cheng, N. Parashar, J. Stupak

*Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, USA*

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

*Rice University, Houston, USA*

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

*University of Rochester, Rochester, USA*

R. Ciesielski, K. Goulianos, C. Mesropian

*The Rockefeller University, New York, USA*

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

*Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Piscataway, USA*

A.G. Delannoy, M. Foerster, J. Heideman, G. Riley, K. Rose, S. Spanier, K. Thapa

*University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA*

O. Bouhali<sup>70</sup>, A. Castaneda Hernandez<sup>70</sup>, A. Celik, M. Dalchenko, M. De Mattia, A. Delgado, S. Dildick, R. Eusebi, J. Gilmore, T. Huang, T. Kamon<sup>71</sup>, R. Mueller, Y. Pakhotin, R. Patel, A. Perloff, L. Perniè, D. Rathjens, A. Safonov, A. Tatarinov, K.A. Ulmer

*Texas A&M University, College Station, USA*

N. Akchurin, J. Damgov, F. De Guio, P.R. Duderø, J. Faulkner, E. Gurrpınar, S. Kunori, K. Lamichhane, S.W. Lee, T. Libeiro, T. Mengke, S. Muthumuni, T. Peltola, S. UndleeB, I. Volobouev, Z. Wang

*Texas Tech University, Lubbock, USA*

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

*Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA*

M.W. Arenton, P. Barria, B. Cox, R. Hirosky, M. Joyce, A. Ledovskoy, H. Li, C. Neu, T. Sinthuprasith, Y. Wang, E. Wolfe, F. Xia

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA

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

Wayne State University, Detroit, USA

M. Brodski, J. Buchanan, C. Caillol, S. Dasu, L. Dodd, S. Duric, B. Gomber, M. Grothe, M. Herndon, A. Hervé, U. Hussain, P. Klabbbers, A. Lanaro, A. Levine, K. Long, R. Loveless, T. Ruggles, A. Savin, N. Smith, W.H. Smith, D. Taylor, N. Woods

University of Wisconsin – Madison, Madison, WI, USA

† Deceased.

<sup>1</sup> Also at Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria.

<sup>2</sup> Also at State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology; Peking University, Beijing, China.

<sup>3</sup> Also at IRFU; CEA; Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France.

<sup>4</sup> Also at Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, Brazil.

<sup>5</sup> Also at Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Pelotas, Brazil.

<sup>6</sup> Also at Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium.

<sup>7</sup> Also at Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia.

<sup>8</sup> Also at Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia.

<sup>9</sup> Now at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt.

<sup>10</sup> Now at British University in Egypt, Cairo, Egypt.

<sup>11</sup> Now at Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt.

<sup>12</sup> Also at Université de Haute Alsace, Mulhouse, France.

<sup>13</sup> Also at Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics; Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia.

<sup>14</sup> Also at Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia.

<sup>15</sup> Also at CERN; European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland.

<sup>16</sup> Also at RWTH Aachen University; III. Physikalisches Institut A, Aachen, Germany.

<sup>17</sup> Also at University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany.

<sup>18</sup> Also at Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus, Germany.

<sup>19</sup> Also at MTA-ELTE Lendület CMS Particle and Nuclear Physics Group; Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary.

<sup>20</sup> Also at Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary.

<sup>21</sup> Also at Institute of Physics; University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary.

<sup>22</sup> Also at Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar, India.

<sup>23</sup> Also at Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, India.

<sup>24</sup> Also at University of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India.

<sup>25</sup> Also at University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka.

<sup>26</sup> Also at Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran.

<sup>27</sup> Also at Yazd University, Yazd, Iran.

<sup>28</sup> Also at Plasma Physics Research Center; Science and Research Branch; Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran.

<sup>29</sup> Also at Università degli Studi di Siena, Siena, Italy.

<sup>30</sup> Also at INFN Sezione di Milano-Bicocca; Università di Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy.

<sup>31</sup> Also at Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA.

<sup>32</sup> Also at International Islamic University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

<sup>33</sup> Also at Malaysian Nuclear Agency; MOSTI, Kajang, Malaysia.

<sup>34</sup> Also at Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Mexico city, Mexico.

<sup>35</sup> Also at Warsaw University of Technology; Institute of Electronic Systems, Warsaw, Poland.

<sup>36</sup> Also at Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia.

<sup>37</sup> Now at National Research Nuclear University 'Moscow Engineering Physics Institute' (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia.

<sup>38</sup> Also at Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

<sup>39</sup> Also at St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University, St. Petersburg, Russia.

<sup>40</sup> Also at University of Florida, Gainesville, USA.

<sup>41</sup> Also at P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia.

<sup>42</sup> Also at INFN Sezione di Padova; Università di Padova; Università di Trento (Trento), Padova, Italy.

<sup>43</sup> Also at Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, Novosibirsk, Russia.

<sup>44</sup> Also at Faculty of Physics; University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia.

<sup>45</sup> Also at University of Belgrade; Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia.

<sup>46</sup> Also at Scuola Normale e Sezione dell'INFN, Pisa, Italy.

<sup>47</sup> Also at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece.

<sup>48</sup> Also at Riga Technical University, Riga, Latvia.

<sup>49</sup> Also at Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland.

<sup>50</sup> Also at Stefan Meyer Institute for Subatomic Physics (SMI), Vienna, Austria.

<sup>51</sup> Also at Gaziosmanpasa University, Tokat, Turkey.

<sup>52</sup> Also at Istanbul Aydin University, Istanbul, Turkey.

- <sup>53</sup> Also at Mersin University, Mersin, Turkey.
- <sup>54</sup> Also at Cag University, Mersin, Turkey.
- <sup>55</sup> Also at Piri Reis University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- <sup>56</sup> Also at Izmir Institute of Technology, Izmir, Turkey.
- <sup>57</sup> Also at Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya, Turkey.
- <sup>58</sup> Also at Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- <sup>59</sup> Also at Kafkas University, Kars, Turkey.
- <sup>60</sup> Also at Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- <sup>61</sup> Also at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom.
- <sup>62</sup> Also at School of Physics and Astronomy; University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom.
- <sup>63</sup> Also at Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, La Laguna, Spain.
- <sup>64</sup> Also at Utah Valley University, Orem, USA.
- <sup>65</sup> Also at Beykent University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- <sup>66</sup> Also at Bingol University, Bingol, Turkey.
- <sup>67</sup> Also at Erzincan University, Erzincan, Turkey.
- <sup>68</sup> Also at Sinop University, Sinop, Turkey.
- <sup>69</sup> Also at Mimar Sinan University; Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey.
- <sup>70</sup> Also at Texas A&M University at Qatar, Doha, Qatar.
- <sup>71</sup> Also at Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Republic of Korea.