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04 Sep 2024**J/ ψ -hadron correlations at midrapidity in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV**

ALICE Collaboration*

Abstract

We report on the measurement of inclusive, non-prompt, and prompt J/ ψ -hadron correlations by the ALICE Collaboration at the CERN Large Hadron Collider in pp collisions at a center-of-mass energy of 13 TeV. The correlations are studied at midrapidity ($|y| < 0.9$) in the transverse momentum ranges $p_T < 40$ GeV/ c for the J/ ψ and $0.15 < p_T < 10$ GeV/ c and $|\eta| < 0.9$ for the associated hadrons. The measurement is based on minimum bias and high multiplicity data samples corresponding to integrated luminosities of $L_{\text{int}} = 34$ nb $^{-1}$ and $L_{\text{int}} = 6.9$ pb $^{-1}$, respectively. In addition, two more data samples are employed, requiring, on top of the minimum bias condition, a threshold on the tower energy of $E = 4$ and 9 GeV in the ALICE electromagnetic calorimeters, which correspond to integrated luminosities of $L_{\text{int}} = 0.9$ pb $^{-1}$ and $L_{\text{int}} = 8.4$ pb $^{-1}$, respectively. The results are presented as associated hadron yields per J/ ψ trigger as a function of the azimuthal angle difference between the associated hadrons and J/ ψ mesons. The integrated near-side and away-side correlated yields are also extracted as a function of the J/ ψ transverse momentum. The measurements are discussed in comparison to PYTHIA calculations.

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1 Introduction

Quarkonia, bound states of charm-anticharm or beauty-antibeauty pairs, are a robust system to test our understanding of quantum chromodynamics (QCD) [1, 2]. Quarkonium physics involves several different momentum or energy scales, the heavy-quark mass, the momentum of the quarks, as well as their kinetic energy in the bound state rest frame. While the production of the heavy-quark pair can be addressed with perturbative QCD, the bound state formation proceeds via a non-perturbative process and is subject to intense research, as summarized in Ref. [3]. For the production in pp collisions, a few different approaches for the transition from the heavy-quark pair to the bound state are used, like the color evaporation model [4, 5], the color singlet model [6], and the effective field theory NRQCD [7–9]. Conceptually, these approaches differ in their view of the bound state formation. In particular at low transverse momentum, observables such as production cross sections and polarization measurements have not been sufficient to find a consensus on the most appropriate theoretical description. The measurement of associated production with other hadrons can provide additional information to discriminate between different scenarios.

The production of quarkonium in hadronic collisions is of particular interest to study this complex process in a surrounding environment of strongly interacting degrees of freedom. In pp collisions at the LHC, the production of a heavy quark pair requires a large momentum transfer, which is still very small compared to the collision energy. Hence, multiple partonic interactions with a similar momentum transfer as the one required for heavy-quark production may be present in the same hadronic collision. Therefore, the measurement of heavy quarkonium as a function of charged hadrons multiplicity contains information about the abundance of such multiple partonic interactions at these energy scales. Previous measurements of the J/ ψ production at midrapidity as a function of the event activity revealed a faster than linear increase of the J/ ψ yields as a function of the charged-particle multiplicity [10]. These measurements were described qualitatively by several model calculations implementing different physics mechanisms [10].

In this context, the measurement of associated hadron yields to J/ ψ can provide more differential information to discriminate between different quarkonium production scenarios [11]. In high-multiplicity events, it can shed more light on the underlying mechanisms leading to the increase of the J/ ψ yields with multiplicity. This type of measurement for J/ ψ was pioneered by UA1 [12] and STAR [13] collaborations as a complementary observable for the study of J/ ψ production. Similar correlation measurements were previously reported by ALICE for D mesons in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 5$ [14] and 13 TeV [15], and for heavy-flavour electrons in pp and p–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5$ TeV [16]. Additionally, J/ ψ production in association with charged jets was studied via the jet fragmentation functions into J/ ψ in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV by the LHCb and CMS collaborations [17–19]. Together, the fragmentation and the correlation functions, discussed in this work, provide important differential information on the J/ ψ hadronization phenomenology.

In this publication, the first measurement of the J/ ψ -hadron correlation functions at the LHC in pp collisions is reported using the ALICE Run 2 data. The correlated yields are presented for trigger J/ ψ mesons in the p_T range $p_T^{J/\psi} < 40$ GeV/c and hadron p_T in the range $0.15 < p_T^h < 10$ GeV/c. In addition, the correlated yields are measured in a sample of high-multiplicity events recorded using a special trigger for the J/ ψ p_T range of $p_T^{J/\psi} < 15$ GeV/c. The correlated yields are reported separately for inclusive, prompt, and non-prompt J/ ψ . The prompt J/ ψ are defined as the J/ ψ originating from short-lived sources that cannot be reconstructed separately from the primary collision vertex. This includes typically directly produced J/ ψ and feed-down from higher mass charmonium states. The non-prompt J/ ψ are products of the weak decay of beauty hadrons, and can be experimentally separated from the prompt ones via the measurement of their secondary vertex [20].

2 The ALICE detector, dataset, and event selection

The J/ ψ -hadron correlation functions are constructed using J/ ψ mesons and charged hadrons, which are both registered with the ALICE central barrel detectors. The J/ ψ are reconstructed using the dielectron decay channel. A comprehensive description of the ALICE detector and its performance is available in Refs. [21, 22].

All the central barrel detectors are placed in a uniform magnetic field of $B = 0.5$ T oriented along the beam direction and produced by the L3 solenoid magnet. The track reconstruction is performed using the Inner Tracking System (ITS) [23] and Time Projection Chamber (TPC) [24] detectors. The ITS is a cylindrical silicon detector with layers of different designs: the two innermost layers are high-resolution silicon pixel detectors (SPD), followed by two layers of silicon drift (SDD) and two layers of silicon strip (SSD) detectors. It is placed around the beam pipe at radii between 3.9 and 43.0 cm and provides full coverage in azimuth. The highly segmented SPD layers provide the spatial resolution required for the reconstruction of the secondary vertices related to the weak decays of beauty hadrons, including, in particular, those decaying via J/ ψ decay channels. The TPC, a cylindrical gaseous detector, covers the radial distance between 85 and 250 cm and extends to 250 cm in longitudinal direction on each side of the nominal interaction point. It provides full coverage in azimuth and, combined with the ITS, a pseudorapidity range of $|\eta| < 0.9$. In addition, the TPC provides a measurement of the track specific energy loss (dE/dx) in the active gas, which is used for electron identification. The ElectroMagnetic Calorimeter (EMCal) [25] and the Di-Jet Calorimeter (DCAL) [26] are used for triggering on high-energy electrons and for particle identification of the matched ITS-TPC tracks by using the ratio of the calorimeter cluster energy to the matched track momentum. The EMCal covers a pseudorapidity interval of $|\eta| < 0.7$ and a range of $80^\circ < \phi < 187^\circ$ in azimuth while the DCal covers a pseudorapidity range of $0.22 < |\eta| < 0.7$ in the azimuthal interval $260^\circ < \phi < 320^\circ$ and $|\eta| < 0.7$ for $320^\circ < \phi < 327^\circ$. Both calorimeters have an identical design, granularity, and energy resolution and will be referred to together as EMCal throughout this paper.

In addition to the central barrel detectors, the V0 detector [27], composed of two scintillator arrays placed on either side of the interaction point at -90 and $+340$ cm and covering the pseudorapidity ranges $-3.7 < \eta < -1.7$ and $2.8 < \eta < 5.1$, respectively, is used for event triggering. Together with the SPD detector, the V0 is used to reject background from beam-gas and pileup collisions.

Multiple event triggers are employed in this analysis: minimum bias (MB), defined as the coincidence of signals in both V0 counters; high multiplicity (HM), corresponding to the 0.1% events with the highest multiplicity in the V0 detector; and an EMCal trigger, which selects on the sum of energy in a sliding window of 4×4 towers above a given threshold (a tower is the smallest segmentation of the EMCal). The EMCal trigger is activated by two different conditions, one with a threshold energy of 9 GeV (EG1DG1), which inspects the entire available luminosity, and one with a 4 GeV threshold (EG2DG2), which was downscaled by roughly a factor 10 with respect to EG1DG1. Both the EMCal and HM triggers include the MB trigger condition in their definition. The analyzed samples include all data recorded by ALICE during the LHC Run 2 in 2016, 2017, and 2018 for pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV. The maximum interaction rate for the dataset was 260 kHz, with a maximum pileup probability of 0.5×10^{-3} .

To ensure uniform detector acceptance, events selected for analysis are required to have a reconstructed vertex within $|z_{\text{vtx}}| < 10$ cm of the nominal interaction point. Offline timing cuts based on information from the V0 detector are used to reject beam-gas events and pileup collisions occurring within the readout time of the SPD. Pileup collisions occurring within the same LHC collision bunch crossing are rejected using offline algorithms, which identify multiple vertices [22]. The remaining fraction of pileup events surviving the selections is negligible for the MB and EMCal triggered samples and consist of at most 2% for the HM triggered sample [10]. However, the pileup events are not expected to affect the J/ ψ -hadron correlation function since pairs of J/ ψ triggers and associated hadrons from different events are

not correlated and only contribute to the baseline of the correlation function. The number of selected events and the corresponding integrated luminosity [28] for the analyzed trigger samples are quoted in Table 1.

The available datasets allowed the measurement of the J/ ψ -hadron correlation function for J/ ψ triggers in the rapidity range $|y| < 0.9$ and p_T ranges of $0 < p_T < 8$ GeV/ c for MB, $0 < p_T < 15$ GeV/ c for HM, $8 < p_T < 15$ GeV/ c for EG2DG2, and $15 < p_T < 40$ GeV/ c for EG1DG1 triggers. For the case of the EMCal triggered events, the J/ ψ p_T intervals are selected such that both the EG1DG1 and the EG2DG2 triggers are fully efficient for J/ ψ in the selected p_T ranges. The event sample acquired using the HM trigger enables the study of the correlation function in pp collisions with a significantly larger charged-particle density than the ones selected by the MB and EMCal triggers. The average charged particle multiplicity at midrapidity for the MB dataset is 6.46 ± 0.19 [29], while for the HM data set it is approximately 4 times larger [10].

Table 1: Number of selected events and corresponding integrated luminosity for the analyzed triggered samples.

| Trigger | MB | HM | EG1DG1 | EG2DG2 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Number of events | 1.97×10^9 | 1.09×10^9 | 9.83×10^7 | 1.32×10^8 |
| Integrated luminosity | $34.0 \pm 1.7 \text{ nb}^{-1}$ | $6.9 \pm 0.4 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ | $8.4 \pm 0.4 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ | $0.9 \pm 0.1 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ |

3 Data analysis

The correlation function of J/ ψ (trigger) and charged hadrons (associated particles) are obtained by reconstructing J/ ψ mesons using the dielectron channel. It closely follows the procedure employed for the measurement of the J/ ψ production cross section at $\sqrt{s} = 5$ and 13 TeV, published by ALICE in Refs. [20, 30, 31]. The prompt and non-prompt J/ ψ are separated by reconstructing the displaced secondary vertex of the decaying beauty hadron. The azimuthal correlation functions are constructed using the difference in azimuth between the trigger dielectron and associated charged hadrons, as described below.

3.1 Electron and hadron track selection

The electron candidates are good quality tracks selected in the central barrel acceptance ($|\eta| < 0.9$), with a minimum p_T of 1 GeV/ c and matched between ITS and TPC. The selection criteria follow those used in previous analyses reported in Refs. [20, 30, 31]. Electrons are identified using the TPC dE/dx measurement and are required to be within a band of $[-1.5, 3] \sigma$ relative to the expectation for electrons, where σ is the dE/dx resolution associated with each track. Proton and pion contamination is minimized by rejecting tracks compatible with the proton or pion dE/dx expectation within 3.5σ . In the EMCal-triggered data sample, at least one of the electrons of the J/ ψ candidate pair is required to have a matched cluster in the EMCal. If a cluster match is found, the pion rejection is replaced by a selection on $E/p \in [0.8, 1.3]$, where E is the energy of the cluster matched to the track and p is the track momentum. This calorimeter-based particle identification improves the electron selection efficiency at large momentum where the TPC pion rejection would otherwise remove most of the candidate electron tracks.

The associated charged hadrons are tracks reconstructed in both the ITS and TPC selected in an η range of $|\eta| < 0.9$ and with a minimum p_T of 150 MeV/ c . A distance-of-closest approach (DCA) to the primary vertex lower than 1 cm in the transverse direction and 3 cm along the beam axis is imposed. These requirements select a sample of tracks containing less than 20% contamination from secondary particles, falling with increasing transverse momentum. The contamination with secondaries in the measured correlated yields is taken into account via the efficiency correction computed from a Monte Carlo (MC) simulation reweighted to match the fraction of secondary tracks observed in data.

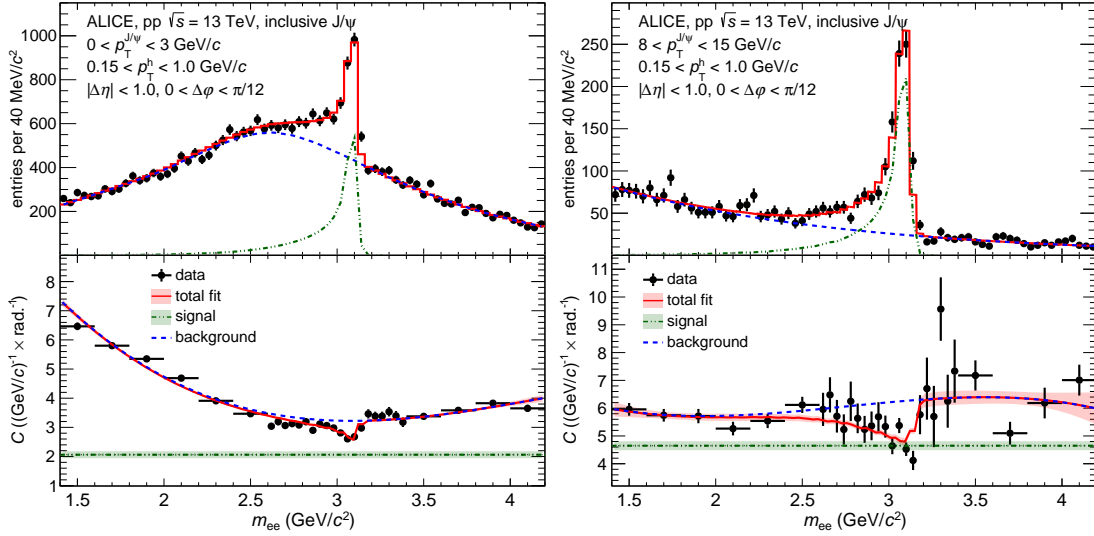


Figure 1: Examples of the extraction of the per trigger correlated charged hadron yield ($0.15 < p_T^h < 1.0$ GeV/c) for inclusive J/ψ in the p_T ranges $0 < p_T^{J/\psi} < 3$ GeV/c (left) and $8 < p_T^{J/\psi} < 15$ GeV/c (right) for $|\Delta\eta| < 1$ and $0 < \Delta\phi < \pi/12$. The top panels show the invariant mass distribution of the dielectrons with the signal and background components as described in Sec. 3.2. The bottom panels show the invariant mass dependence of the charged hadrons correlated yield. The total fit function ($C_{m_{e^+e^-}}$), the signal ($C_{J/\psi}$) and the total background ($C_{\text{bkg}}(m_{e^+e^-})$) components as defined in Eq. 2 are also shown. The band around the total fit function in the bottom panels shows the 1σ confidence interval.

3.2 J/ψ yield measurement

Dielectrons are built from all possible opposite-sign (OS) electron pairs constructed using the selected electron tracks within the same event (SE). The J/ψ signal is extracted from the invariant mass distribution of these pairs by subtracting the combinatorial and correlated backgrounds. The combinatorial background, pairs of electrons originating from uncorrelated processes, is estimated using the event-mixing (ME), where dielectrons are constructed using electrons from different events. The mixing is done in event pools with events belonging to the same data-taking run (a period of continuous data taking) and with a similar vertex position. Since an arbitrary number of ME pairs can be obtained with this technique, the ME invariant mass distribution is normalized using the ratio between the like-sign (LS) pairs from the SE to the one from the ME distributions, as described in Ref. [31]. The correlated background, originating mainly from semi-leptonic decays of heavy-flavor hadrons [32], is determined by means of a fit of the invariant mass distribution after subtraction of the combinatorial background. This fit includes a template obtained from a MC simulation, described below, for the J/ψ signal and an empirical shape for the correlated background parameterized using a second-order polynomial function for pair $p_T < 3$ GeV/c and an exponential function for $p_T > 3$ GeV/c. For high transverse momentum pairs, $p_T > 5$ GeV/c, the invariant mass distribution is fitted directly, without subtraction of the combinatorial background. The upper panels of Fig. 1 illustrate the signal extraction procedure for inclusive J/ψ candidates in a low (left panel) and a high (right panel) transverse momentum interval. For a given invariant mass interval, the J/ψ signal yield is obtained by subtracting the background contribution estimated from the fitting procedure.

3.3 J/ψ-hadron correlation functions

For a sample of electron-pairs in a transverse momentum interval $p_T^{J/\psi}$ and invariant mass $m_{e^+e^-}$, the correlation function C with hadrons in a transverse momentum interval p_T^h is calculated as

$$C(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi; p_T^{J/\psi}, m_{e^+e^-}, p_T^h) = \frac{1}{N_{\text{trig}}} \cdot \frac{S(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi)}{B(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi)} \cdot B(0, 0) \quad (1)$$

where N_{trig} is the number of J/ψ triggers, while $\Delta\eta$ and $\Delta\phi$ are the difference in pseudorapidity and azimuthal angle, respectively, between the dielectron trigger and associated hadron. The S and B are the doubly-differential distributions of J/ψ-hadron pairs obtained using trigger J/ψ and associated hadrons from the same event or different events, respectively. The distribution obtained by combining J/ψ and hadrons from different events (also known as the mixed-event procedure) is used to correct for geometrical acceptance effects and is normalized by its amplitude at $\Delta\eta = \Delta\phi = 0$, $B(0,0)$, where the acceptance for J/ψ-hadron pairs is maximal. In the mixed-event procedure, trigger dielectrons from one event are mixed with associated hadrons from a different event with similar event vertex position and close in time to ensure similar detector conditions. For the J/ψ candidates reconstructed in EMCal-triggered events, the event mixing is performed using associated hadrons from MB-triggered events. This is necessary to avoid fake correlations originating from trivial geometrical acceptance effects due to the azimuthal coverage of the EMCal detector, which selects only events that contain a trigger J/ψ in the relatively narrow EMCal acceptance and recoils in the opposite direction.

The dielectron-pair distributions are corrected for acceptance and reconstruction efficiency by applying a weight to each dielectron-hadron pair, which is the product of the corrections corresponding to the candidate J/ψ and to the associated hadron. The number of J/ψ triggers, N_{trig} , is also corrected for the dielectron acceptance and reconstruction efficiency which means that this correction largely cancels for the correlation function. However, since the J/ψ efficiency depends on p_T , especially for large $p_T^{J/\psi}$ intervals, this leads to a small correction of the correlation functions. The correction corresponding to the associated hadrons takes into account the reconstruction efficiency of the primary charged hadrons, originating from the collision, and the contamination by secondary tracks originating from long-lived weak decays and secondary interactions in the detector material. The hadron reconstruction efficiency, which relies on a MC simulation, ranges between 85% and 90% for $p_T > 0.5$ GeV/c and drops to approximately 70% below 0.5 GeV/c. Since the relative contribution of secondary hadrons is not properly simulated in the MC sample, a data driven procedure is used, based on extracting the fraction of secondaries from data and combining it with the primary and secondary-hadron efficiencies computed using the MC sample. The p_T -dependent fraction of secondary hadrons is evaluated from fits to the measured distributions of the DCA transverse projection for the selected charged hadrons with MC-generated templates corresponding to primary and secondary tracks. The fraction of secondaries in the selected associated hadron sample ranges from approximately 20% at the lowest hadron p_T and goes down to approximately 3% at $p_T = 10$ GeV/c.

In any $p_T^{J/\psi}$, p_T^h and $\Delta\phi$ interval, the correlation function is built for a given invariant mass, $C(m_{e^+e^-})$, obtained as defined by Eq. 1 and averaged in the interval $|\Delta\eta| < 1$, $C(m_{e^+e^-})$. It is a weighted average of the contributions from J/ψ, $C_{J/\psi}$ (independent of $m_{e^+e^-}$), and from background dielectrons, $C_{\text{bkg}}(m_{e^+e^-})$,

$$C(m_{e^+e^-}) = f(m_{e^+e^-}) \times C_{J/\psi} + (1 - f(m_{e^+e^-})) \times C_{\text{bkg}}(m_{e^+e^-}), \quad (2)$$

with f being the fraction of J/ψ among the total number of dielectrons with invariant mass $m_{e^+e^-}$. The extraction of the correlation component $C_{J/\psi}$ relies on fitting Eq. 2 to the invariant mass dependent associated yield $C(m_{e^+e^-})$ obtained for each combination of $p_T^{J/\psi}$, p_T^h and $\Delta\phi$ intervals. The background correlation component $C_{\text{bkg}}(m_{e^+e^-})$ is parameterized using a fifth-order polynomial for $p_T^{J/\psi} < 3$ GeV/c and a third-order polynomial otherwise. The signal fraction $f(m_{e^+e^-})$ is obtained from the fit of the

invariant mass distribution of dielectron pairs in the transverse momentum interval corresponding to $p_T^{J/\psi}$, as explained in Sec. 3.2 and illustrated in the upper panels of Figure 1. The fit of the associated yield is performed in the invariant mass interval $1.4 < m_{e^+e^-} < 4.2$ GeV/ c^2 and is illustrated in the lower panels of Fig. 1 for inclusive J/ψ in the $p_T^{J/\psi}$ ranges $p_T^{J/\psi} < 3$ GeV/ c (left) and $8 < p_T^{J/\psi} < 15$ GeV/ c (right).

3.4 Prompt and non-prompt J/ψ separation

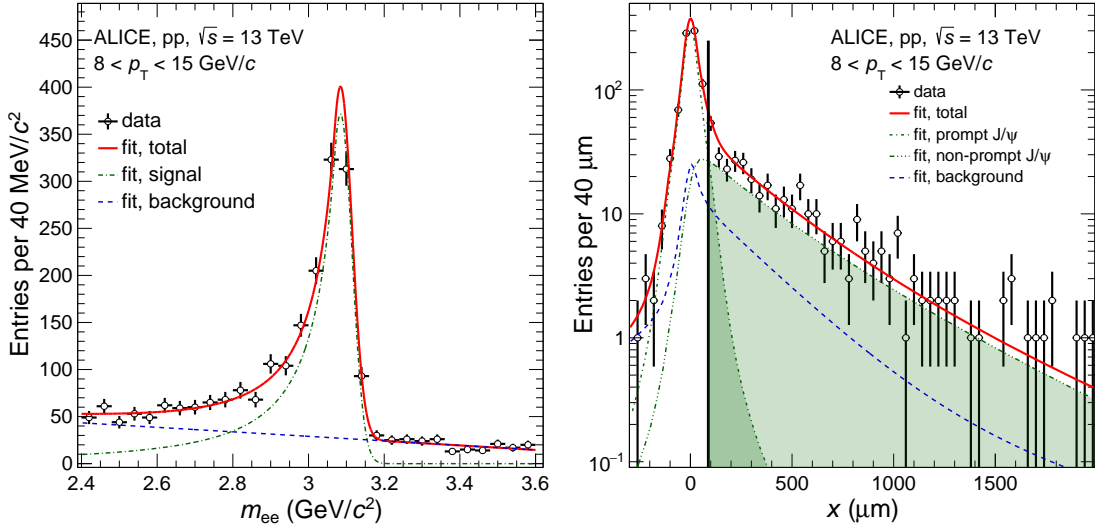


Figure 2: Simultaneous fit of the dielectron invariant mass and pseudo-proper decay length two-dimensional distribution in the $8 < p_T^{J/\psi} < 15$ GeV/ c interval. Left: projection on the invariant mass axis. Right: Projection on the pseudo-proper decay length axis. The various components of the fit are also shown. The vertical black line at $x \approx 100$ μm shows the lower cut value selecting a non-prompt J/ψ sample with less than 10% contamination from prompt J/ψ.

Prompt and non-prompt J/ψ are separated based on the pseudo-proper decay length (x) defined as

$$x = L_{xy} \cdot \frac{c \cdot m^{J/\psi}}{p_T^{J/\psi}}, \quad (3)$$

where L_{xy} is the transverse projection of the distance between the secondary vertex (constructed using the two electrons) and the primary vertex of the collision. Small values of x distributed symmetrically around zero, with a spread determined by the ITS spatial resolution of ≈ 50 μm , are characteristic of prompt J/ψ, while large positive x values are characteristic of non-prompt J/ψ originating in the weak decay of beauty hadrons. ALICE measured the non-prompt J/ψ cross section in proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV, as reported in Ref. [20], where the different shapes of the pseudo-proper decay length distributions of prompt and non-prompt J/ψ were exploited. For a given J/ψ transverse momentum interval $p_T^{J/\psi}$, the correlation function for inclusive J/ψ, determined using Eq. 2, can be described with two components, corresponding to the prompt and non-prompt J/ψ

$$C_{\text{inclusive}}(\Delta\phi) = f_B(p_T^{J/\psi}) \times C_{J/\psi \leftarrow h_B}(\Delta\phi) + (1 - f_B(p_T^{J/\psi})) \times C_{\text{prompt}}(\Delta\phi), \quad (4)$$

where $f_B(p_T^{J/\psi})$ is the fraction of non-prompt J/ψ mesons in the transverse momentum interval corresponding to $p_T^{J/\psi}$. Since f_B is an increasing function of p_T , leading to significant variations within the $p_T^{J/\psi}$ intervals employed in this analysis, an interpolation procedure is used to obtain a continuous dependence of f_B on $p_T^{J/\psi}$. The interpolation is done using a fit of existing measurements at midrapidity in pp

collisions by ALICE at $\sqrt{s} = 5, 7$ and 13 TeV [20, 33], CMS at $\sqrt{s} = 5$ and 7 TeV [34, 35] and ATLAS at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 8 TeV [36]. The measurements at midrapidity in $p\bar{p}$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV by CDF [37], and those at forward-rapidity by LHCb in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV [38] were also used. In order to account for the energy or rapidity dependence of the p_T -dependent f_B ratios from the various datasets, each measured f_B distribution is scaled by a constant factor, which is obtained by fitting the ratio of the ALICE measurement at 13 TeV to the given measurement in the overlapping p_T interval. The resulting set of experimental data points is fitted with a universal curve, which is obtained as the ratio between the non-prompt J/ψ cross section obtained using a FONLL calculation [39, 40] and a power-law function for the inclusive J/ψ cross section, as described in Ref. [41]. Systematic uncertainties due to the intrinsic scales of the FONLL calculation and residual variations of the p_T dependence with energy or rapidity are calculated and reported in the last row of Table 2. The largest uncertainty contributions originate from the FONLL calculations and the scaling of the forward LHCb measurement.

A two-step approach is used in order to extract the prompt and non-prompt J/ψ-hadron correlation functions. First, the correlation function for non-prompt J/ψ is obtained using the procedure described in Sec. 3.3, but applying a lower threshold on x such that a high purity non-prompt J/ψ sample is selected. The threshold value is determined based on templates of the prompt and non-prompt J/ψ x distributions, with a relative normalization corresponding to the $f_B(p_T^{J/\psi})$ value obtained from the fit procedure explained above, and allowing a maximum of 10% contamination with prompt J/ψ. The template shapes depend mainly on the J/ψ p_T and on the number of pixel hits in the SPD layers, which drive the spatial resolution of the secondary vertexing. The templates, as described in detail in Ref. [20], are obtained based on a MC simulation tuned to match the vertexing resolution observed in data. An illustration of these, corresponding to the p_T interval $8 < p_T^{J/\psi} < 15$ GeV/c, is shown in Fig. 2, where these templates, together with a background template obtained as explained in Ref. [20, 33], are used to fit the x distribution seen in data. The low- x threshold corresponding to a non-prompt J/ψ sample with a 10% contamination with prompt J/ψ is indicated with a vertical black line. Second, the prompt J/ψ correlation function is estimated using Eq. 4, once the inclusive and non-prompt J/ψ components are known.

3.5 Monte Carlo simulations

In order to compute efficiency corrections for both the J/ψ triggers and the associated hadrons, and to construct the prompt and non-prompt J/ψ pseudoproper decay length templates, two sets of Monte Carlo simulations are employed. The first one, used to compute the associated-hadron efficiency, is a sample of minimum bias pp collisions simulated with PYTHIA8 and the Monash 2013 tune [42]. The second one is a set of minimum bias pp collisions simulated with PYTHIA6 and the Perugia 2011 tune [43] with injected prompt and non-prompt J/ψ. The non-prompt J/ψ kinematics is generated using the Perugia 2011 PYTHIA tune, while for the prompt J/ψ, a spectrum based on a phenomenological interpolation of measurements at RHIC, CDF, and the LHC [41] and a uniform distribution in rapidity is used. The J/ψ are forced to decay via the dielectron channel using the EvtGen package [44] with the PHOTOS model [45]. The generated particles are transported through a detailed simulation of the ALICE apparatus using GEANT3 [46]. Detector responses and calibrations in MC simulations are tuned to data and consider the time-dependent conditions of all detectors included in the data acquisition. In particular, the track parameters from the simulations are tuned to minimize the residual discrepancy of the DCA distributions between data and MC, as described in Ref. [47].

4 Systematic uncertainties

Several sources of systematic uncertainty affecting the J/ψ correlation functions are considered, including the reconstruction efficiency of charged hadrons, the fraction of J/ψ signal ($f(m_{e^+e^-})$) used in Eq. 2, the parameterization of the background correlation function $C_{\text{bkg}}(m_{e^+e^-})$, the contamination with prompt

Table 2: Summary of the systematic uncertainties on the correlated-hadron yields from all the sources mentioned in the text. The degree of correlation over $\Delta\phi$, trigger- p_T and associated-hadron- p_T is also quoted. Uncertainties are provided as ranges to keep the table compact.

| Source | Uncertainty | Correlation | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| | | $\Delta\phi$ | trigger p_T | associated p_T |
| Charged-hadron efficiency | 2–3% | correlated | correlated | correlated |
| J/ ψ efficiency | negligible | correlated | correlated | correlated |
| $f(m_{e^+e^-})$ | 1–10% | correlated | uncorrelated | correlated |
| $C_{\text{bkg}}(m_{e^+e^-})$ | 1–9% | uncorrelated | uncorrelated | uncorrelated |
| prompt J/ ψ contamination | 0–4% | correlated | uncorrelated | correlated |
| f_B | 1–8% | correlated | correlated | correlated |

J/ ψ in the selected non-prompt J/ ψ sample, and the fraction of J/ ψ originating from beauty hadron decays (f_B). A summary with all the systematic uncertainties is given in Table 2 and in the following we provide a detailed description.

The systematic uncertainty on the associated hadron yield ranges between 2% and 3% and is dominated by the uncertainties on the ITS-TPC track matching efficiency, with a smaller contribution originating from the contamination with secondary particles. The uncertainty on the ITS-TPC matching is determined based on residual differences observed between data and MC simulations [48]. The uncertainty due to the contamination with secondary particles is estimated by alternatively using the longitudinal DCA component for extracting the fraction of secondaries, instead of the standard approach employing the transverse DCA. This uncertainty is considered fully correlated over $\Delta\phi$, $p_T^{\text{J}/\psi}$ and p_T^{h} . The uncertainty on the J/ ψ efficiency correction largely cancels due to the per-trigger normalization. Residual effects are checked by repeating the analysis with variations of the electron candidate quality criteria and are found to be negligible.

The uncertainty due to the fraction of J/ ψ , $f(m_{e^+e^-})$, used in Eq. 2 and determined from the invariant mass distribution of dielectrons in a given p_T range, is studied by repeating the analysis using different electron PID selection criteria, which have a large impact on both the J/ ψ efficiency and $f(m_{e^+e^-})$. Both the TPC and EMCal electron selection criteria are varied, which led to systematic variations ranging between 1 and 10%. The fit range of the invariant mass distribution is also varied. For a given J/ ψ p_T interval, these uncertainties are considered correlated over $\Delta\phi$ and associated-hadron p_T and fully uncorrelated between the different J/ ψ p_T intervals.

The uncertainty related to the fit of the invariant mass dependent correlated yield, as described by Eq. 2, is studied by varying both the lower and upper limits of the mass range in which the fit is performed by 200 MeV/ c^2 . The assigned systematic uncertainty, which varies from 1 to 9%, is computed as the difference between the maximum and minimum value of the correlation yields divided by $\sqrt{12}$, corresponding to the ratio of the standard deviation and the full spread of a uniform distribution. It is considered to be uncorrelated for all the studied kinematic intervals. The large number of associated yield extractions required made impractical the use of a functional form other than a polynomial to parameterize the background correlation component, $C_{\text{bkg}}(m_{e^+e^-})$. Therefore, the choice of the polynomial function order was done such that the fit properly converges for all the considered cases. It is then considered that the systematic uncertainty obtained based on the fit range variations and the yield statistical uncertainty provide a good estimation of the total uncertainty on the correlated yield extraction.

Since a completely pure sample of non-prompt J/ ψ cannot be obtained with the available datasets, residual contamination is always present and considered as a systematic analysis uncertainty. This is estimated by modifying the pseudoproper decay length selection to allow a smaller (5%) and a larger (20%) prompt J/ ψ contamination in the non-prompt sample. The difference obtained between the two cases, divided by $\sqrt{12}$, is taken as a systematic uncertainty, ranging from 0 to 4%, and is considered to be uncorrelated

over the trigger p_T and correlated in associated hadron p_T and $\Delta\phi$.

Finally, the uncertainty corresponding to the determination of the fraction f_B of J/ ψ originating from beauty-hadron decays is dominated by the uncertainties of the measurements used in the $f_B(p_T)$ interpolation procedure described in the previous section. This uncertainty, which varies from 1 to 8%, is considered to be correlated between all the considered trigger and associated p_T intervals as well as $\Delta\phi$.

5 Results

The corrected correlation functions, described in Sec. 3.3, are obtained in $\Delta\phi$ intervals of $\pi/12$ for several J/ ψ p_T intervals and three associated-hadron p_T intervals. The main features of the correlation functions, in a first-order hard scattering di-jet production picture, are the so called near-side (NS) peak centered around $\Delta\phi = 0$, which is related to the structure of the fragmenting jet containing the trigger particle, and the away-side (AS) peak centered around $\Delta\phi = \pi$, which is related to the fragmenting recoil jet. The near-side peak is relatively narrow for high- p_T trigger particles due to the kinematic bias made when a trigger particle is selected. In contrast, the away-side peak is typically wider due to the relatively softer particles composing the recoil jet and to jet acoplanarity, predominantly originating from initial-state and/or final-state radiation [49]. In addition, the shape of the correlation functions is sensitive to the hadronization and particle decays which alter the kinematics of the detected jet particles relative to the parent parton. While the peak structures of the correlation functions reflect the particle production in the hard scattering leading to the production of the J/ ψ , the absolute scale of the correlation function includes also random combinatorics, which is proportional to the event multiplicity and is typically independent of $\Delta\phi$. Thus, it is convenient to look at the baseline subtracted correlation functions, with the baseline b determined from a fit of the correlation function with a function of the form

$$C(\Delta\phi) = b + a_{\text{NS}} \times e^{-\frac{(\Delta\phi)^2}{2\sigma_{\text{NS}}^2}} + a_{\text{AS}} \times e^{-\frac{(\Delta\phi-\pi)^2}{2\sigma_{\text{AS}}^2}}, \quad (5)$$

where a_{NS} (a_{AS}) and σ_{NS} (σ_{AS}) are the amplitudes and widths of two Gaussians, corresponding to the near and away sides as indicated by the parameter indices.

A few examples of the baseline-subtracted correlation functions, $C(\Delta\phi)$, for each hardware trigger used in this analysis are shown in Fig. 3. The plots refer to inclusive J/ ψ production. From top to bottom the rows correspond to the MB ($0 < p_T^{\text{J}/\psi} < 3$ GeV/ c), HM ($0 < p_T^{\text{J}/\psi} < 3$ GeV/ c), EG2DG2 ($8 < p_T^{\text{J}/\psi} < 15$ GeV/ c) and EG1DG1 ($20 < p_T^{\text{J}/\psi} < 40$ GeV/ c) triggers. From left to right, the panels correspond to associated-hadrons in the p_T ranges $0.15 < p_T^{\text{h}} < 1$ GeV/ c , $1 < p_T^{\text{h}} < 3$ GeV/ c and $3 < p_T^{\text{h}} < 10$ GeV/ c , respectively. These correlation functions exhibit the characteristic features described above, particularly for the EG2DG2 and EG1DG1 datasets, which select higher p_T J/ ψ (triggers). Even though this analysis does not work on full reconstructed jets, some features can be naturally understood in the context of jets: it can be observed that the near-side peak amplitude increases with increasing J/ ψ p_T , and the peak becomes narrower [50], which is due to the boosted kinematics of the jet components but also to the bias imposed on the jet fragmentation by selecting a high p_T trigger particle. The away-side peak is wider compared to the near-side as mentioned above, and also displays a relatively smaller amplitude, possibly due to the rapidity swing of the recoil jet and the limited experimental acceptance.

The correlation functions are compared to Monte Carlo simulations of inelastic pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV using the PYTHIA 8.3 generator with the Monash 2013 tune [42]. It should be noted that this PYTHIA tune employs fragmentation functions tuned on measurements from e^+e^- and ep collisions, while hadronization can be different in pp collisions as suggested by multiple recent experimental results [51]. For the calculations compared to the HM triggered sample, one per mille of events with the highest charged particle multiplicity in the V0 detector acceptance were selected, analogously to the HM triggered experimental data. The calculations are shown in Figure 3 as dash-dotted black lines. In order to remove

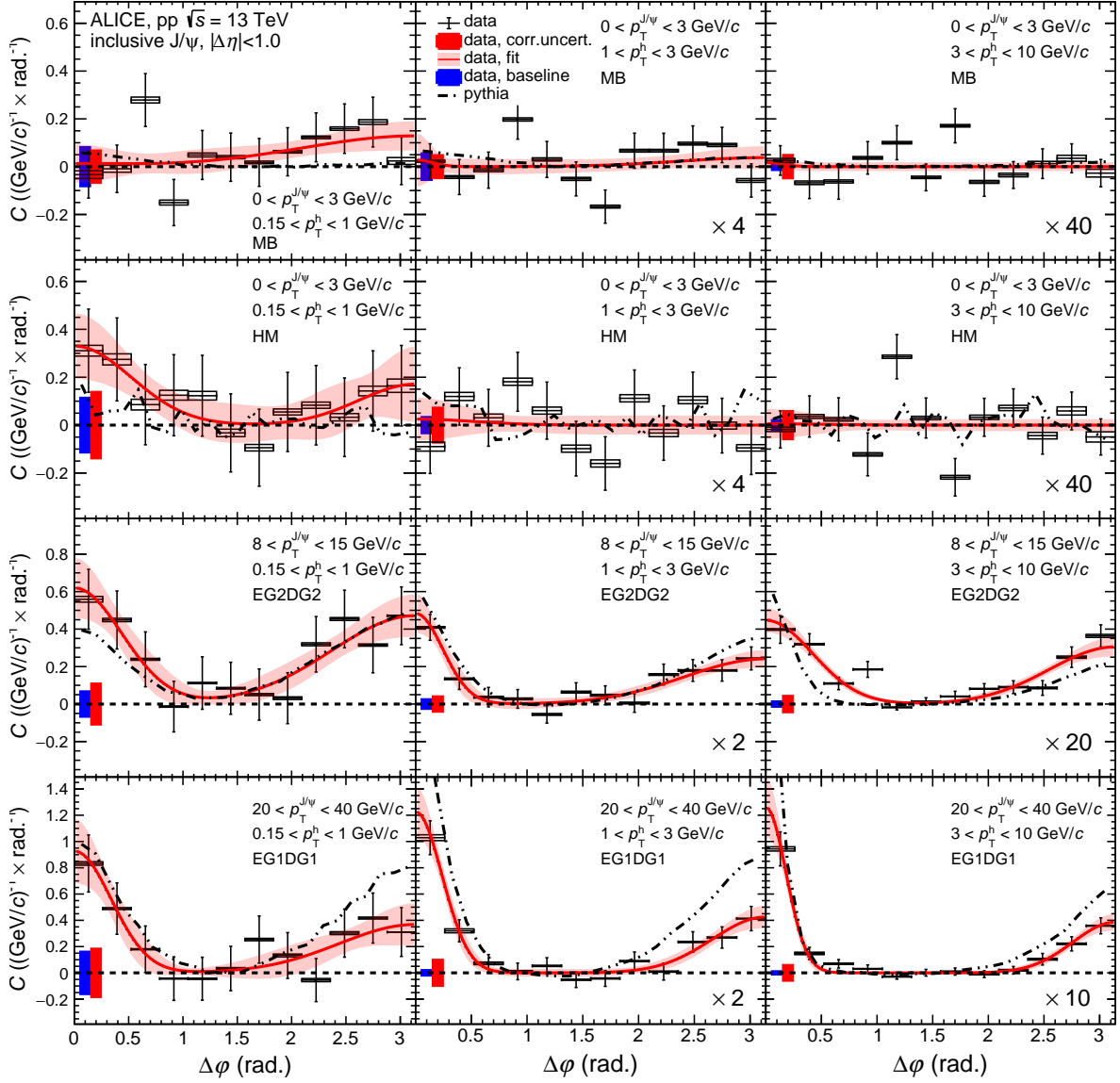


Figure 3: Baseline-subtracted inclusive J/ ψ -hadron correlation functions corresponding, from top to bottom, to the MB, HM, EG2DG2, and EG1DG1 event triggers. The differential correlated yields are normalized per radian and per GeV/c. From left to right, the associated-hadron p_T intervals are $0.15 < p_T^h < 1$ GeV/c, $1 < p_T^h < 3$ GeV/c and $3 < p_T^h < 10$ GeV/c. For better visibility, the middle and right panel correlation functions are scaled by a factor, given in the lower right corner of each panel. The error bars on the data points indicate statistical uncertainties while the boxes show the uncorrelated systematic uncertainties. The correlated systematic and the baseline uncertainties are shown as filled boxes around 0. The fit of the data using Eq. 5 is indicated by the red solid line while the band around the fit shows the 1σ confidence interval. Calculations using PYTHIA are shown as black dash-dotted lines.

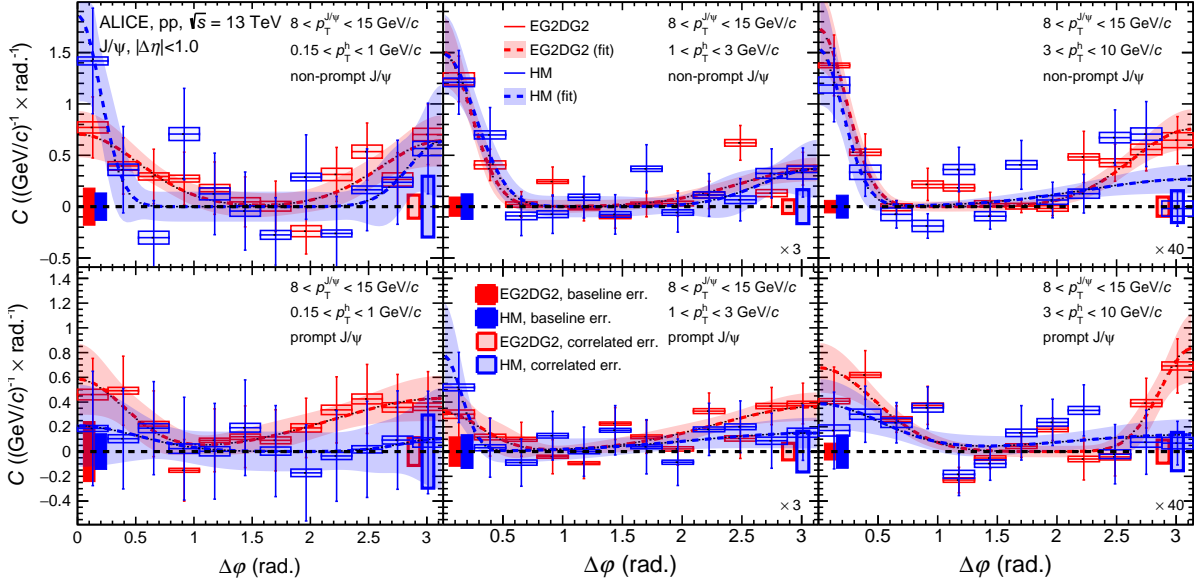


Figure 4: Baseline subtracted non-prompt (top panels) and prompt (bottom panels) J/ ψ -hadron correlation functions obtained using the EG2DG2 (red), and HM (blue) triggers for J/ ψ in the p_T interval $8 < p_T^{J/\psi} < 15$ GeV/c and associated hadrons in the p_T intervals $0.15 < p_T^h < 1$, $1 < p_T^h < 3$ and $3 < p_T^h < 10$ GeV/c. The differential correlated yields are normalized per radian and per GeV/c. Baseline and correlated uncertainties are shown as boxes around 0, while fits of the correlation functions with Eq. 5 are shown as a dashed line with a colored band, which represent the 1σ fit uncertainties.

effects due to the different baselines seen in simulations, the PYTHIA correlation functions are also fitted with the Eq. 5, and the corresponding baseline is subtracted.

Figure 4 shows an example of a comparison of the baseline-subtracted correlation functions for non-prompt and prompt J/ ψ in EG2DG2 and HM triggered events. This comparison is chosen as enough data were available for both triggers to extract the correlated yields, in the same J/ ψ p_T interval, $8 < p_T^{J/\psi} < 15$ GeV/c. The top panels correspond to the non-prompt J/ ψ , while the bottom panels correspond to the prompt J/ ψ . Despite the significantly different baseline values, b , due to the much higher multiplicity seen in the HM triggers, the two baseline-subtracted correlation functions show peak structures which are compatible within uncertainties. Both the non-prompt (top panels) and prompt (bottom panels) J/ ψ correlation functions shown in Fig. 4 indicate correlation patterns on both the near and away sides, although for the non-prompt J/ ψ the statistical significance is stronger.

For a quantitative study of the charged particle production in association with J/ ψ mesons, the NS and AS yields integrated over $\Delta\phi$ are obtained from the fit of Eq. 5 to each correlation function using the statistical and uncorrelated systematic uncertainties added in quadrature. The yields are computed by integrating the corresponding NS and AS Gaussians. The statistical uncertainties on the correlated yields are also obtained using the fit parameter covariance matrix. As a systematic check, the yields are obtained also by using a bin counting method, as the number of counts above the baseline. In order to optimize the significance, the counting is done by using only the bins found within one σ on either side of the NS and AS Gaussian functions. A minimum of two $\Delta\phi$ bins are used in the counting, in the cases where the Gaussian width is smaller than a bin width. The total yield is obtained after accounting for the portion of the Gaussian that covers the bins used in counting. In the following, the reported integrated yields are the ones obtained from integrating the fitted Gaussians, while half of the difference between the fit and the counting method is taken as a systematic uncertainty.

The near-side and away-side correlated yields obtained from data and PYTHIA simulations are shown in Figs. 5 and 6, respectively, as a function of the trigger J/ ψ p_T and separately for the inclusive, non-

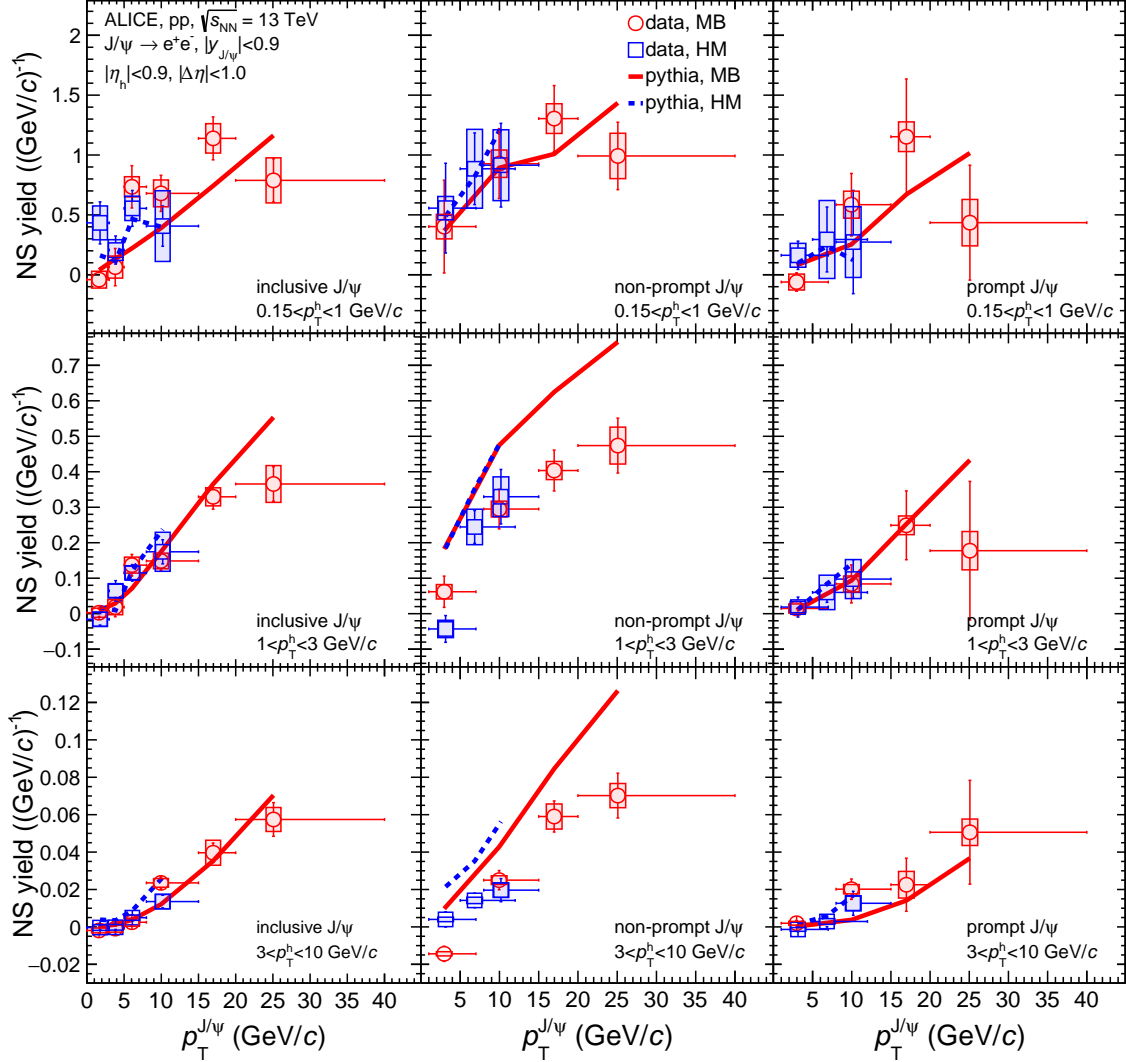


Figure 5: Near-side correlated particle yields as a function of the J/ψ trigger p_T . The left, middle, and right panels correspond to the inclusive, non-prompt, and prompt J/ψ, respectively. The top, middle, and bottom panels correspond to the three associated p_T intervals. Error bars on the data points represent statistical uncertainties, while the boxes represent systematic uncertainties. The data points are plotted at the average J/ψ p_T in each particular trigger p_T range, while the horizontal extent of the error bars indicate the p_T interval width. The red data points include the combination of the MB, EG2DG2, and EG1DG1 triggered events (named MB in the figure legend), while the blue data points represent the HM-triggered events. The data is compared to yields obtained from PYTHIA simulations, represented with solid red (MB) and dashed-blue (HM) lines.

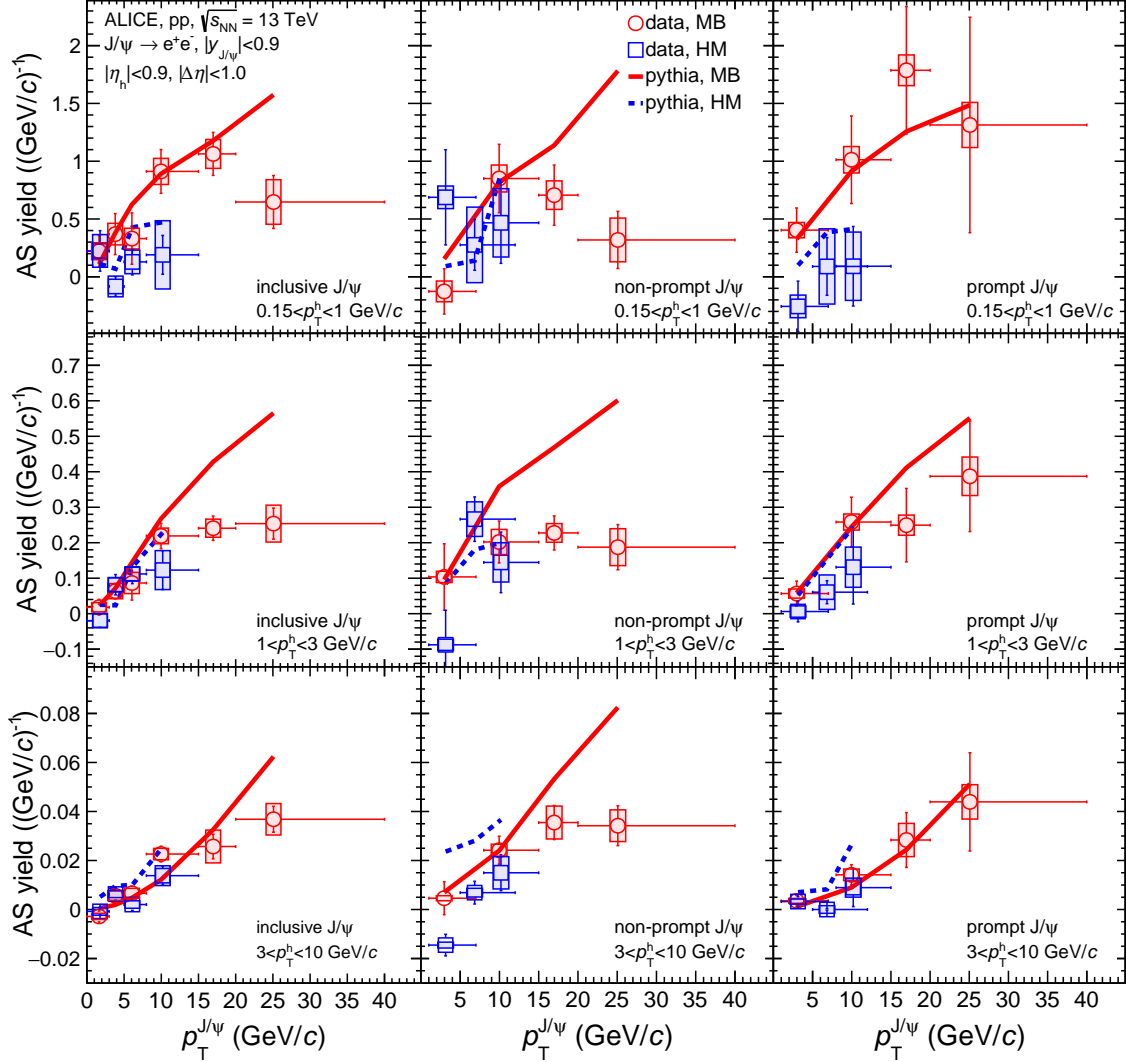


Figure 6: Away-side correlated particle yields as a function of the J/ψ trigger p_T . The left, middle, and right panels correspond to the inclusive, non-prompt, and prompt J/ψ, respectively. The top, middle, and bottom panels correspond to the three associated p_T intervals. Error bars on the data points represent statistical uncertainties, while the boxes represent systematic uncertainties. The data points are plotted at the average J/ψ p_T in each particular trigger p_T range, while the horizontal extent of the error bars indicate the p_T interval width. The red data points include the combination of the MB, EG2DG2, and EG1DG1 triggered events (named MB in the figure legend), while the blue data points represent the HM-triggered events. The data is compared to yields obtained from PYTHIA simulations, represented with solid red (MB) and dashed-blue lines (HM).

prompt and prompt J/ ψ . The systematic uncertainties shown on the data points are dominated by the uncorrelated uncertainties discussed in Sec. 4. The combined results from the MB, EG2DG2 and EG1DG1 triggered events are shown in red and denoted as "MB" in the figure legend, while the ones from the HM-triggered events are shown in blue. For the case of prompt and non-prompt J/ ψ in the HM event sample, the results shown include three $p_T^{J/\psi}$ intervals which have partial overlap, namely $1 < p_T < 7$ GeV/c, $5 < p_T < 12$ GeV/c, and $8 < p_T < 15$ GeV/c. This choice was made in order to have overlap with the corresponding results from the MB and EG2DG2 triggered event samples, while the interval $5 < p_T < 12$ GeV/c was included to provide an additional data point at an intermediate $p_T^{J/\psi}$.

For a given p_T^h interval, the NS associated yields shown in Figure 5 grow as a function of $p_T^{J/\psi}$ for inclusive, prompt and non-prompt J/ ψ . The trend is significant for the hadrons with $p_T > 1$ GeV/c, while for the lowest p_T the measurement precision does not allow to conclude. For J/ ψ with $p_T > 15$ GeV/c, the NS per-trigger yield is about 1 for hadrons in the range $0.15 < p_T < 1$ GeV/c, dropping to 0.3-0.4 for $1 < p_T < 3$ GeV/c, and to about 0.05 for $3 < p_T < 10$ GeV/c. The near-side yields associated with non-prompt J/ ψ are larger than those associated to prompt J/ ψ , with a statistical significance of 2.2, 3.4 and 1.7 σ for the associated p_T intervals $0.15 < p_T^h < 1$ GeV/c, $1 < p_T^h < 3$ GeV/c and $3 < p_T^h < 10$ GeV/c, respectively. The significance evaluation includes both the statistical and uncorrelated systematic uncertainties. The associated yields observed in the HM triggered events and in MB / EMCal triggered events show a good agreement within uncertainties both for inclusive, non-prompt and prompt J/ ψ . This is an indication that the parton fragmentation into J/ ψ , prompt or non-prompt, is not significantly modified in events with high event activity relative to MB events. This is consistent with observations made in Ref. [15] where prompt D⁰ meson-hadron correlations are compared across different V0M multiplicity classes, covering also the current HM event sample, and revealing no appreciable change. The PYTHIA calculations, done in the same kinematic intervals as the data, are generally in good qualitative agreement with NS results, however, hadron yields with $p_T > 1$ GeV/c associated with non-prompt J/ ψ are overestimated by the model. The fragmentation functions for non-prompt J/ ψ in fully reconstructed jets reported by LHCb in Ref. [17] are in good agreement with PYTHIA. Altogether, the results might point to hadronization effects which are not well reproduced in PYTHIA.

The away-side yields, related to the recoil jet, are shown in Fig. 6. The PYTHIA calculations are in good agreement with the results obtained for prompt J/ ψ over the entire $p_T^{J/\psi}$ range, while for inclusive and in particular non-prompt J/ ψ the model starts to diverge from the measurements for p_T above 15 GeV/c, overestimating the experimental yields. The associated yields obtained in HM triggered events are overall statistically compatible with those obtained in MB/EMCal triggered events. However, in particular for prompt J/ ψ and in the $0.15 < p_T^h < 1.0$ GeV/c interval, there is a hint of lower correlated hadron yields in HM triggered events than in MB events. The statistical significance is approximately 2.3 σ and a difference in the yields for the two triggered samples is also observed in the PYTHIA calculations. As also discussed in Ref. [52], the lower away-side yields are likely related to the definition of the HM trigger, which requires a high threshold on charged-particle multiplicity in the V0 detector acceptance. This is introducing a bias towards events where the recoil jet is in the V0 acceptance, hence lower away-side yields would be seen at midrapidity.

6 Summary

The first J/ ψ -hadron correlation analysis in pp collisions at the LHC is reported using four datasets at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV recorded with a minimum-bias ($L_{\text{int}} = 34$ nb⁻¹), a high-multiplicity ($L_{\text{int}} = 6.9$ pb⁻¹) and an EMCal trigger used with a threshold on the tower energy of 4 GeV ($L_{\text{int}} = 0.9$ pb⁻¹) and 9 GeV ($L_{\text{int}} = 8.4$ pb⁻¹). For a given hadron p_T range, the associated yields for inclusive, prompt and non-prompt J/ ψ in both the near- and away-side grow with the increase in p_T of the trigger J/ ψ . The yields extracted in minimum-bias or EMCal-triggered events agree well within experimental uncertainties with

those obtained in high-multiplicity events, hinting that the fragmentation of the jet producing the J/ ψ does not change with the event multiplicity. The PYTHIA calculations in general show a good agreement with data, but some tension is observed. In the case of non-prompt J/ ψ and for hadrons with $p_T > 1$ GeV/ c , PYTHIA overpredicts the measurements for the near-side, while in the away-side the correlated yields are overestimated only for J/ ψ p_T above 15 GeV/ c . This might indicate hadronization effects in pp collisions which are not well described by PYTHIA. Neither the data nor PYTHIA calculations exhibit differences in correlated yields between MB and HM-triggered events, with the exception of the away-side correlated yield with hadrons of $p_T < 1$ GeV/ c . The lower AS correlated yields seen in high-multiplicity events are interpreted as being related to the trigger bias introduced by the HM trigger. The measurement of the J/ ψ correlated hadron yields will be improved with the datasets collected during the LHC Run 3, thanks to the increase in integrated luminosity but also to the higher precision of the separation between prompt and non-prompt J/ ψ of the upgraded ALICE detector [53].

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S. Acharya ¹²⁷, A. Agarwal¹³⁵, G. Aglieri Rinella ³², L. Aglietta ²⁴, M. Agnello ²⁹, N. Agrawal ²⁵, Z. Ahammed ¹³⁵, S. Ahmad ¹⁵, S.U. Ahn ⁷¹, I. Ahuja ³⁷, A. Akindinov ¹⁴¹, V. Akishina³⁸, M. Al-Turany ⁹⁷, D. Aleksandrov ¹⁴¹, B. Alessandro ⁵⁶, H.M. Alfanda ⁶, R. Alfaro Molina ⁶⁷, B. Ali ¹⁵, A. Alici ²⁵, N. Alizadehvandchali ¹¹⁶, A. Alkin ¹⁰⁴, J. Alme ²⁰, G. Alocco ^{24,52}, T. Alt ⁶⁴, A.R. Altamura ⁵⁰, I. Altsybeev ⁹⁵, J.R. Alvarado ⁴⁴, C.O.R. Alvarez⁴⁴, M.N. Anaam ⁶, C. Andrei ⁴⁵, N. Andreou ¹¹⁵, A. Andronic ¹²⁶, E. Andronov ¹⁴¹, V. Anguelov ⁹⁴, F. Antinori ⁵⁴, P. Antonioli ⁵¹, N. Apadula ⁷⁴, L. Aphecetche ¹⁰³, H. Appelshäuser ⁶⁴, C. Arata ⁷³, S. Arcelli ²⁵, R. Arnaldi ⁵⁶, J.G.M.C.A. Arneiro ¹¹⁰, I.C. Arsene ¹⁹, M. Arslanod ¹³⁸, A. Augustinus ³², R. Averbeck ⁹⁷, D. Averyanov ¹⁴¹, M.D. Azmi ¹⁵, H. Baba¹²⁴, A. Badalà ⁵³, J. Bae ¹⁰⁴, Y.W. Baek ⁴⁰, X. Bai ¹²⁰, R. Bailhache ⁶⁴, Y. Bailung ⁴⁸, R. Bala ⁹¹, A. Balbino ²⁹, A. Baldisseri ¹³⁰, B. Balis ², Z. Banoo ⁹¹, V. Barbasova³⁷, F. Barile ³¹, L. Barioglio ⁵⁶, M. Barlou⁷⁸, B. Barman⁴¹, G.G. Barnaföldi ⁴⁶, L.S. Barnby ¹¹⁵, E. Barreau ¹⁰³, V. Barret ¹²⁷, L. Barreto ¹¹⁰, C. Bartels ¹¹⁹, K. Barth ³², E. Bartsch ⁶⁴, N. Bastid ¹²⁷, S. Basu ⁷⁵, G. Batigne ¹⁰³, D. Battistini ⁹⁵, B. Batyunya ¹⁴², D. Bauri⁴⁷, J.L. Bazo Alba ¹⁰¹, I.G. Bearden ⁸³, C. Beattie ¹³⁸, P. Becht ⁹⁷, D. Behera ⁴⁸, I. Belikov ¹²⁹, A.D.C. Bell Hechavarria ¹²⁶, F. Bellini ²⁵, R. Bellwied ¹¹⁶, S. Belokurova ¹⁴¹, L.G.E. Beltran ¹⁰⁹, Y.A.V. Beltran ⁴⁴, G. Bencedi ⁴⁶, A. Bensaoula¹¹⁶, S. Beole ²⁴, Y. Berdnikov ¹⁴¹, A. Berdnikova ⁹⁴, L. Bergmann ⁹⁴, M.G. Besoiu ⁶³, L. Betev ³², P.P. Bhaduri ¹³⁵, A. Bhasin ⁹¹, B. Bhattacharjee ⁴¹, L. Bianchi ²⁴, J. Bielčič ³⁵, J. Bielčíková⁸⁶, A.P. Bigot ¹²⁹, A. Bilandzic ⁹⁵, G. Biro ⁴⁶, S. Biswas ⁴, N. Bize ¹⁰³, J.T. Blair ¹⁰⁸, D. Blau ¹⁴¹, M.B. Blidaru ⁹⁷, N. Bluhme³⁸, C. Blume ⁶⁴, G. Boca ^{21,55}, F. Bock ⁸⁷, T. Bodova ²⁰, J. Bok ¹⁶, L. Boldizsár ⁴⁶, M. Bombara ³⁷, P.M. Bond ³², G. Bonomi ^{134,55}, H. Borel ¹³⁰, A. 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L.K. Graczykowski ¹³⁶, E. Grecka ⁸⁶, A. Grelli ⁵⁹, C. Grigoras ³², V. Grigoriev ¹⁴¹, S. Grigoryan ^{142,1}, F. Grosa ³², J.F. Grosse-Oetringhaus ³², R. Grosso ⁹⁷, D. Grund ³⁵, N.A. Grunwald ⁹⁴, G.G. Guardiano ¹¹¹, R. Guernane ⁷³, M. Guilbaud ¹⁰³, K. Gulbrandsen ⁸³, J.J.W.K. Gumprecht ¹⁰², T. Gündem ⁶⁴, T. Gunji ¹²⁴, W. Guo ⁶, A. Gupta ⁹¹, R. Gupta ⁹¹, R. Gupta ⁴⁸, K. Gwizdzziel ¹³⁶, L. Gyulai ⁴⁶, C. Hadjidakis ¹³¹, F.U. Haider ⁹¹, S. Haidlova ³⁵, M. Haldar ⁴, H. Hamagaki ⁷⁶, Y. Han ¹³⁹, B.G. Hanley ¹³⁷, R. Hannigan ¹⁰⁸, J. Hansen ⁷⁵, M.R. Haque ⁹⁷, J.W. Harris ¹³⁸, A. Harton ⁹, M.V. Hartung ⁶⁴, H. Hassan ¹¹⁷, D. Hatzifotiadou ⁵¹, P. Hauer ⁴², L.B. Havener ¹³⁸, E. Hellbär ³², H. Helstrup ³⁴, M. Hemmer ⁶⁴, T. Herman ³⁵, S.G. Hernandez ¹¹⁶, G. Herrera Corral ⁸, S. Herrmann ¹²⁸, K.F. Hetland ³⁴, B. Heybeck ⁶⁴, H. Hillemanns ³², B. Hippolyte ¹²⁹, I.P.M. Hobus ⁸⁴, F.W. Hoffmann ⁷⁰, B. Hofman ⁵⁹, G.H. Hong ¹³⁹, M. Horst ⁹⁵, A. Horzyk ², Y. Hou ⁶, P. Hristov ³², P. Huhn ⁶⁴, L.M. 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Kileng ³⁴, B. Kim ¹⁰⁴, C. Kim ¹⁶, D.J. Kim ¹¹⁷, E.J. Kim ⁶⁹, J. Kim ¹³⁹, J. Kim ⁵⁸, J. Kim ^{32,69}, M. Kim ¹⁸, S. Kim ¹⁷, T. Kim ¹³⁹, K. Kimura ⁹², A. Kirkova ³⁶, S. Kirsch ⁶⁴, I. Kisel ³⁸, S. Kiselev ¹⁴¹, A. Kisiel ¹³⁶, J.P. Kitowski ², J.L. Klay ⁵, J. Klein ³², S. Klein ⁷⁴, C. Klein-Bösing ¹²⁶, M. Kleiner ⁶⁴, T. Klemenz ⁹⁵, A. Kluge ³², C. Kobdaj ¹⁰⁵, R. Kohara ¹²⁴, T. Kollegger ⁹⁷, A. Kondratyev ¹⁴², N. Kondratyeva ¹⁴¹, J. König ⁶⁴, S.A. Königstorfer ⁹⁵, P.J. Konopka ³², G. Kornakov ¹³⁶, M. Korwieser ⁹⁵, S.D. Koryciak ², C. Koster ⁸⁴, A. Kotliarov ⁸⁶, N. Kovacic ⁸⁹, V. Kovalenko ¹⁴¹, M. Kowalski ¹⁰⁷, V. Kozuharov ³⁶, G. Kozlov ³⁸, I. Králik ⁶⁰, A. Kravčáková ³⁷, L. Krcal ^{32,38}, M. Krivda ^{100,60}, F. Krizek ⁸⁶, K. Krizkova Gajdosova ³², C. Krug ⁶⁶, M. Krüger ⁶⁴, D.M. Krupova ³⁵, E. Kryshen ¹⁴¹, V. Kučera ⁵⁸, C. Kuhn ¹²⁹, P.G. Kuijter ⁸⁴, T. Kumaoka ¹²⁵, D. Kumar ¹³⁵, L. Kumar ⁹⁰, N. Kumar ⁹⁰, S. Kumar ⁵⁰, S. Kundu ³², P. Kurashvili ⁷⁹, A. Kurepin ¹⁴¹, A.B. Kurepin ¹⁴¹, A. Kuryakin ¹⁴¹, S. Kushpil ⁸⁶, V. Kuskov ¹⁴¹, M. Kutyla ¹³⁶, A. Kuznetsov ¹⁴², M.J. Kweon ⁵⁸, Y. Kwon ¹³⁹, S.L. La Pointe ³⁸, P. La Rocca ²⁶, A. Lakrathok ¹⁰⁵, M. Lamanna ³², A.R. Landou ⁷³, R. Langoy ¹²¹, P. Larionov ³², E. Laudi ³², L. Lautner ^{32,95}, R.A.N. Laveaga ¹⁰⁹, R. Lavicka ¹⁰², R. Lea ^{134,55}, H. Lee ¹⁰⁴, I. Legrand ⁴⁵, G. Legras ¹²⁶, J. Lehrbach ³⁸, A.M. Lejeune ³⁵, T.M. Lelek ², R.C. Lemmon ^{I,85}, I. León Monzón ¹⁰⁹, M.M. Lesch ⁹⁵, E.D. Lesser ¹⁸, P. Lévai ⁴⁶, M. Li ⁶, P. Li ¹⁰, X. Li ¹⁰, B.E. Liang-gilman ¹⁸, J. Lien ¹²¹, R. Lietava ¹⁰⁰, I. Likmeta ¹¹⁶, B. Lim ²⁴, S.H. Lim ¹⁶, V. Lindenstruth ³⁸, C. Lippmann ⁹⁷, D.H. Liu ⁶, J. Liu ¹¹⁹, G.S.S. Liveraro ¹¹¹, I.M. Lofnes ²⁰, C. Loizides ⁸⁷, S. Lokos ¹⁰⁷, J. Lömker ⁵⁹, X. Lopez ¹²⁷, E. López Torres ⁷, C. Lotteau ¹²⁸, P. Lu ^{97,120}, Z. Lu ¹⁰, F.V. Lugo ⁶⁷, J.R. Luhder ¹²⁶, M. Lunardon ²⁷, G. Luparello ⁵⁷, Y.G. Ma ³⁹, M. Mager ³², A. Maire ¹²⁹, E.M. Majerz ², M.V. Makariev ³⁶, M. Malaev ¹⁴¹, G. Malfattore ²⁵, N.M. Malik ⁹¹, S.K. Malik ⁹¹, L. Malinina ^{I,VIII,142}, D. Mallick ¹³¹, N. Mallick ⁴⁸, G. Mandaglio ^{30,53}, S.K. Mandal ⁷⁹, A. Manea ⁶³, V. Manko ¹⁴¹, F. Manso ¹²⁷, V. Manzari ⁵⁰, Y. Mao ⁶, R.W. Marcjan ², G.V. Margagliotti ²³, A. Margotti ⁵¹, A. Marín ⁹⁷, C. Markert ¹⁰⁸, C.F.B. Marquez ³¹, P. Martinengo ³², M.I. Martínez ⁴⁴, G. Martínez García ¹⁰³, M.P.P. Martins ¹¹⁰, S. Masciocchi ⁹⁷, M. Maserà ²⁴, A. Masoni ⁵², L. Massacrier ¹³¹, O. Massen ⁵⁹, A. Mastroserio ^{132,50}, O. Matonoha ⁷⁵, S. Mattiazzo ²⁷, A. Matyja ¹⁰⁷, F. Mazzaschi ^{32,24}, M. Mazzilli ¹¹⁶, Y. Melikyan ⁴³, M. Melo ¹¹⁰, A. Menchaca-Rocha ⁶⁷, J.E.M. Mendez ⁶⁵, E. Meninno ¹⁰², A.S. Menon ¹¹⁶, M.W. Menzel ^{32,94}, M. Meres ¹³, Y. Miake ¹²⁵, L. Micheletti ³², D.L. Mihaylov ⁹⁵, K. Mikhaylov ^{142,141}, N. Minafra ¹¹⁸, D. Miśkowiec ⁹⁷, A. Modak ¹³⁴, B. Mohanty ⁸⁰, M. Mohisin Khan ^{VI,15}, M.A. Molander ⁴³, S. Monira ¹³⁶, C. Mordasini ¹¹⁷, D.A. Moreira De Godoy ¹²⁶, I. Morozov ¹⁴¹, A. Morsch ³², T. Mrnjavac ³², V. Muccifora ⁴⁹, S. Muhuri ¹³⁵, J.D. Mulligan ⁷⁴, A. Mulliri ²², M.G. Munhoz ¹¹⁰, R.H. Munzer ⁶⁴, H. Murakami ¹²⁴, S. Murray ¹¹⁴, L. Musa ³², J. Musinsky ⁶⁰, J.W. Myrcha ¹³⁶, B. Naik ¹²³, A.I. Nambrath ¹⁸, B.K. Nandi ⁴⁷, R. Nania ⁵¹, E. Nappi ⁵⁰, A.F. Nassirpour ¹⁷, A. Nath ⁹⁴, S. Nath ¹³⁵, C. Nattrass ¹²², M.N. Naydenov ³⁶, A. Neagu ¹⁹, A. Negru ¹¹³, E. Nekrasova ¹⁴¹, L. Nellen ⁶⁵, R. Nepeivoda ⁷⁵, S. Nese ¹⁹, N. Nicassio ⁵⁰, B.S. Nielsen ⁸³, E.G. Nielsen ⁸³, S. Nikolaev ¹⁴¹, S. Nikulin ¹⁴¹, V. Nikulin ¹⁴¹, F. Noferini ⁵¹, S. Noh ¹², P. Nomokonov ¹⁴²,

J. Norman¹¹⁹, N. Novitzky⁸⁷, P. Nowakowski¹³⁶, A. Nyanin¹⁴¹, J. Nystrand²⁰, S. Oh¹⁷, A. Ohlson⁷⁵, V.A. Okorokov¹⁴¹, J. Oleniacz¹³⁶, A. Onnerstad¹¹⁷, C. Oppedisano⁵⁶, A. Ortiz Velasquez⁶⁵, J. Otwinowski¹⁰⁷, M. Oya⁹², K. Oyama⁷⁶, Y. Pachmayer⁹⁴, S. Padhan⁴⁷, D. Pagano^{134,55}, G. Paic⁶⁵, S. Paisano-Guzmán⁴⁴, A. Palasciano⁵⁰, I. Panasenkov⁷⁵, S. Panebianco¹³⁰, C. Pantouvakis²⁷, H. Park¹²⁵, H. Park¹⁰⁴, J. Park¹²⁵, J.E. Parkkila³², Y. Patley⁴⁷, R.N. Patra⁵⁰, B. Paul¹³⁵, H. Pei⁶, T. Peitzmann⁵⁹, X. Peng¹¹, M. Pennisi²⁴, S. Perciballi²⁴, D. Peresunko¹⁴¹, G.M. Perez⁷, Y. Pestov¹⁴¹, M.T. Petersen⁸³, V. Petrov¹⁴¹, M. Petrovici⁴⁵, S. Piano⁵⁷, M. Pikna¹³, P. Pillot¹⁰³, O. Pinazza^{51,32}, L. Pinsky¹¹⁶, C. Pinto⁹⁵, S. Pisano⁴⁹, M. Płoskoń⁷⁴, M. Planinic⁸⁹, F. Pliquett⁶⁴, D.K. Plociennik², M.G. Poghosyan⁸⁷, B. Polichtchouk¹⁴¹, S. Politano²⁹, N. Poljak⁸⁹, A. Pop⁴⁵, S. Porteboeuf-Houssais¹²⁷, V. Pozdniakov^{1,142}, I.Y. Pozos⁴⁴, K.K. Pradhan⁴⁸, S.K. Prasad⁴, S. Prasad⁴⁸, R. Preghenella⁵¹, F. Prino⁵⁶, C.A. Pruneau¹³⁷, I. Pshenichnov¹⁴¹, M. Puccio³², S. Pucillo²⁴, S. Qiu⁸⁴, L. Quaglia²⁴, A.M.K. Radhakrishnan⁴⁸, S. Ragoni¹⁴, A. Rai¹³⁸, A. Rakotozafindrabe¹³⁰, L. Ramello^{133,56}, F. Rami¹²⁹, M. Rasa²⁶, S.S. Räsänen⁴³, R. Rath⁵¹, M.P. Rauch²⁰, I. Ravasenga³², K.F. Read^{87,122}, C. Reckziegel¹¹², A.R. Redelbach³⁸, K. Redlich^{7,79}, C.A. Reetz⁹⁷, H.D. Regules-Medel⁴⁴, A. Rehman²⁰, F. Reidt³², H.A. Reme-Ness³⁴, K. Reygiers⁹⁴, A. Riabov¹⁴¹, V. Riabov¹⁴¹, R. Ricci²⁸, M. Richter²⁰, A.A. Riedel⁹⁵, W. Riegler³², A.G. Riffero²⁴, M. Rignanese²⁷, C. Ripoli²⁸, C. Ristea⁶³, M.V. Rodriguez³², M. Rodríguez Cahuantzi⁴⁴, S.A. Rodríguez Ramírez⁴⁴, K. Røed¹⁹, R. Rogalev¹⁴¹, E. Rogochaya¹⁴², T.S. Rogoschinski⁶⁴, D. Rohr³², D. Röhrich²⁰, S. Rojas Torres³⁵, P.S. Rokita¹³⁶, G. Romanenko²⁵, F. Ronchetti³², E.D. Rosas⁶⁵, K. Roslon¹³⁶, A. Rossi⁵⁴, A. Roy⁴⁸, S. Roy⁴⁷, N. Rubini^{51,25}, J.A. Rudolph⁸⁴, D. Ruggiano¹³⁶, R. Rui²³, P.G. Russek², R. Russo⁸⁴, A. Rustamov⁸¹, E. Ryabinkin¹⁴¹, Y. Ryabov¹⁴¹, A. Rybicki¹⁰⁷, J. Ryu¹⁶, W. Rzesza¹³⁶, B. Sabiu⁵¹, S. Sadovsky¹⁴¹, J. Saetre²⁰, K. Šafařík³⁵, S. Saha⁸⁰, B. Sahoo⁴⁸, R. Sahoo⁴⁸, S. Sahoo⁶¹, D. Sahu⁴⁸, P.K. Sahu⁶¹, J. Saini¹³⁵, K. Sajdakova³⁷, S. Sakai¹²⁵, M.P. Salvan⁹⁷, S. Sambyal⁹¹, D. Samitz¹⁰², I. Sanna^{32,95}, T.B. Saramela¹¹⁰, D. Sarkar⁸³, P. Sarma⁴¹, V. Sarritzu²², V.M. Sarti⁹⁵, M.H.P. Sas³², S. Sawan⁸⁰, E. Scapparone⁵¹, J. Schambach⁸⁷, H.S. Scheid⁶⁴, C. Schiaua⁴⁵, R. Schicker⁹⁴, F. Schlepper⁹⁴, A. Schmah⁹⁷, C. Schmidt⁹⁷, H.R. Schmidt⁹³, M.O. Schmidt³², M. Schmidt⁹³, N.V. Schmidt⁸⁷, A.R. Schmier¹²², R. Schotter^{102,129}, A. Schröter³⁸, J. Schukraft³², K. Schweda⁹⁷, G. Scioli²⁵, E. Scomparin⁵⁶, J.E. Seger¹⁴, Y. Sekiguchi¹²⁴, D. Sekihata¹²⁴, M. Selina⁸⁴, I. Selyuzhenkov⁹⁷, S. Senyukov¹²⁹, J.J. Seo⁹⁴, D. Serebryakov¹⁴¹, L. Serkin⁶⁵, L. Šerkšnytė⁹⁵, A. Sevcenco⁶³, T.J. Shaba⁶⁸, A. Shabetai¹⁰³, R. Shahoyan³², A. Shangaraev¹⁴¹, B. Sharma⁹¹, D. Sharma⁴⁷, H. Sharma⁵⁴, M. Sharma⁹¹, S. Sharma⁷⁶, S. Sharma⁹¹, U. Sharma⁹¹, A. Shatat¹³¹, O. Sheibani¹¹⁶, K. Shigaki⁹², M. Shimomura⁷⁷, J. Shin¹², S. Shirinkin¹⁴¹, Q. Shou³⁹, Y. Sibiriak¹⁴¹, S. Siddhanta⁵², T. Siemiarczuk⁷⁹, T.F. Silva¹¹⁰, D. Silvermyr⁷⁵, T. Simantathammakul¹⁰⁵, R. Simeonov³⁶, B. Singh⁹¹, B. Singh⁹⁵, K. Singh⁴⁸, R. Singh⁸⁰, R. Singh⁹¹, R. Singh⁹⁷, S. Singh¹⁵, V.K. Singh¹³⁵, V. Singhal¹³⁵, T. Sinha⁹⁹, B. Sitar¹³, M. Sitta^{133,56}, T.B. Skaali¹⁹, G. Skorodumovs⁹⁴, N. Smirnov¹³⁸, R.J.M. Snellings⁵⁹, E.H. Solheim¹⁹, J. Song¹⁶, C. Sonnabend^{32,97}, J.M. Sonneveld⁸⁴, F. Soramel²⁷, A.B. Soto-herandez⁸⁸, R. Spijkers⁸⁴, I. Sputowska¹⁰⁷, J. Staa⁷⁵, J. Stachel⁹⁴, I. Stan⁶³, P.J. Steffanic¹²², T. Stellhorn¹²⁶, S.F. Stiefelmaier⁹⁴, D. Stocco¹⁰³, I. Storehaug¹⁹, N.J. Strangmann⁶⁴, P. Stratmann¹²⁶, S. Strazzi²⁵, A. Sturmiolo^{30,53}, C.P. Stylianidis⁸⁴, A.A.P. Suaide¹¹⁰, C. Suire¹³¹, M. Sukhanov¹⁴¹, M. Suljic³², R. Sultanov¹⁴¹, V. Sumberia⁹¹, S. Sumowidagdo⁸², M. Szymkowski¹³⁶, S.F. Taghavi⁹⁵, G. Taillepied⁹⁷, J. Takahashi¹¹¹, G.J. Tambave⁸⁰, S. Tang⁶, Z. Tang¹²⁰, J.D. Tapia Takaki¹¹⁸, N. Tapus¹¹³, L.A. Tarasovicova³⁷, M.G. Tarzila⁴⁵, G.F. Tassielli³¹, A. Tauro³², A. Távira García¹³¹, G. Tejeda Muñoz⁴⁴, L. Terlizzi²⁴, C. Terrevoli⁵⁰, S. Thakur⁴, D. Thomas¹⁰⁸, A. Tikhonov¹⁴¹, N. Tiltmann^{32,126}, A.R. Timmins¹¹⁶, M. Tkacik¹⁰⁶, T. Tkacik¹⁰⁶, A. Toia⁶⁴, R. Tokumoto⁹², S. Tomassini²⁵, K. Tomohiro⁹², N. Topilskaya¹⁴¹, M. Toppi⁴⁹, V.V. Torres¹⁰³, A.G. Torres Ramos³¹, A. Trifiro^{30,53}, T. Triloki⁹⁶, A.S. Triolo^{32,30,53}, S. Tripathy³², T. Tripathy⁴⁷, S. Trogolo²⁴, V. Trubnikov³, W.H. Trzaska¹¹⁷, T.P. Trzcinski¹³⁶, C. Tzolanta¹⁹, R. Tu³⁹, A. Tumkin¹⁴¹, R. Turrisi⁵⁴, T.S. Tveter¹⁹, K. Ullaland²⁰, B. Ulukutlu⁹⁵, S. Upadhyaya¹⁰⁷, A. Uras¹²⁸, M. Urioni¹³⁴, G.L. Usai²², M. Vala³⁷, N. Valle⁵⁵, L.V.R. van Doremalen⁵⁹, M. van Leeuwen⁸⁴, C.A. van Veen⁹⁴, R.J.G. van Weelden⁸⁴, P. Vande Vyvre³², D. Varga⁴⁶, Z. Varga⁴⁶, P. Vargas Torres⁶⁵, M. Vasileiou⁷⁸, A. Vasiliev^{1,141}, O. Vázquez Doce⁴⁹, O. Vazquez Rueda¹¹⁶, V. Vechernin¹⁴¹, E. Vercellin²⁴, S. Vergara Limón⁴⁴, R. Verma⁴⁷, L. Vermunt⁹⁷, R. Vértesi⁴⁶, M. Verweij⁵⁹, L. Vickovic³³, Z. Vilakazi¹²³, O. Villalobos Baillie¹⁰⁰, A. Villani²³, A. Vinogradov¹⁴¹, T. Virgili²⁸, M.M.O. Virta¹¹⁷, A. Vodopyanov¹⁴², B. Volkel³², M.A. Völkl⁹⁴, S.A. Voloshin¹³⁷, G. Volpe³¹, B. von Haller³², I. Vorobyev³², N. Vozniuk¹⁴¹,

J. Vrláková³⁷, J. Wan³⁹, C. Wang³⁹, D. Wang³⁹, Y. Wang³⁹, Y. Wang⁶, Z. Wang³⁹,
 A. Wegrzynek³², F.T. Weiglhofer³⁸, S.C. Wenzel³², J.P. Wessels¹²⁶, J. Wiechula⁶⁴, J. Wikne¹⁹,
 G. Wilk⁷⁹, J. Wilkinson⁹⁷, G.A. Willems¹²⁶, B. Windelband⁹⁴, M. Winn¹³⁰, J.R. Wright¹⁰⁸,
 W. Wu³⁹, Y. Wu¹²⁰, Z. Xiong¹²⁰, R. Xu⁶, A. Yadav⁴², A.K. Yadav¹³⁵, Y. Yamaguchi⁹², S. Yang²⁰,
 S. Yano⁹², E.R. Yeats¹⁸, Z. Yin⁶, I.-K. Yoo¹⁶, J.H. Yoon⁵⁸, H. Yu¹², S. Yuan²⁰, A. Yuncu⁹⁴,
 V. Zaccolo²³, C. Zampolli³², F. Zanone⁹⁴, N. Zardoshti³², A. Zarochentsev¹⁴¹, P. Závada⁶²,
 N. Zaviyalov¹⁴¹, M. Zhalov¹⁴¹, B. Zhang^{94,6}, C. Zhang¹³⁰, L. Zhang³⁹, M. Zhang^{127,6}, M. Zhang⁶,
 S. Zhang³⁹, X. Zhang⁶, Y. Zhang¹²⁰, Z. Zhang⁶, M. Zhao¹⁰, V. Zhrebchevskii¹⁴¹, Y. Zhi¹⁰,
 D. Zhou⁶, Y. Zhou⁸³, J. Zhu^{54,6}, S. Zhu¹²⁰, Y. Zhu⁶, S.C. Zugravel⁵⁶, N. Zurlo^{134,55}

Affiliation Notes

^I Deceased

^{II} Also at: Max-Planck-Institut für Physik, Munich, Germany

^{III} Also at: Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA), Bologna, Italy

^{IV} Also at: Dipartimento DET del Politecnico di Torino, Turin, Italy

^V Also at: Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, Türkiye

^{VI} Also at: Department of Applied Physics, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India

^{VII} Also at: Institute of Theoretical Physics, University of Wrocław, Poland

^{VIII} Also at: An institution covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN

Collaboration Institutes

¹ A.I. Alikhanyan National Science Laboratory (Yerevan Physics Institute) Foundation, Yerevan, Armenia

² AGH University of Krakow, Cracow, Poland

³ Bogolyubov Institute for Theoretical Physics, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kiev, Ukraine

⁴ Bose Institute, Department of Physics and Centre for Astroparticle Physics and Space Science (CAPSS), Kolkata, India

⁵ California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California, United States

⁶ Central China Normal University, Wuhan, China

⁷ Centro de Aplicaciones Tecnológicas y Desarrollo Nuclear (CEADEN), Havana, Cuba

⁸ Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados (CINVESTAV), Mexico City and Mérida, Mexico

⁹ Chicago State University, Chicago, Illinois, United States

¹⁰ China Institute of Atomic Energy, Beijing, China

¹¹ China University of Geosciences, Wuhan, China

¹² Chungbuk National University, Cheongju, Republic of Korea

¹³ Comenius University Bratislava, Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

¹⁴ Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, United States

¹⁵ Department of Physics, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India

¹⁶ Department of Physics, Pusan National University, Pusan, Republic of Korea

¹⁷ Department of Physics, Sejong University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

¹⁸ Department of Physics, University of California, Berkeley, California, United States

¹⁹ Department of Physics, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway

²⁰ Department of Physics and Technology, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway

²¹ Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Pavia, Pavia, Italy

²² Dipartimento di Fisica dell'Università and Sezione INFN, Cagliari, Italy

²³ Dipartimento di Fisica dell'Università and Sezione INFN, Trieste, Italy

²⁴ Dipartimento di Fisica dell'Università and Sezione INFN, Turin, Italy

²⁵ Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia dell'Università and Sezione INFN, Bologna, Italy

²⁶ Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia dell'Università and Sezione INFN, Catania, Italy

²⁷ Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia dell'Università and Sezione INFN, Padova, Italy

²⁸ Dipartimento di Fisica 'E.R. Caianiello' dell'Università and Gruppo Collegato INFN, Salerno, Italy

²⁹ Dipartimento DISAT del Politecnico and Sezione INFN, Turin, Italy

³⁰ Dipartimento di Scienze MIFT, Università di Messina, Messina, Italy

³¹ Dipartimento Interateneo di Fisica 'M. Merlin' and Sezione INFN, Bari, Italy

- ³² European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Geneva, Switzerland
- ³³ Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, University of Split, Split, Croatia
- ³⁴ Faculty of Engineering and Science, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Bergen, Norway
- ³⁵ Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague, Prague, Czech Republic
- ³⁶ Faculty of Physics, Sofia University, Sofia, Bulgaria
- ³⁷ Faculty of Science, P.J. Šafárik University, Košice, Slovak Republic
- ³⁸ Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany
- ³⁹ Fudan University, Shanghai, China
- ⁴⁰ Gangneung-Wonju National University, Gangneung, Republic of Korea
- ⁴¹ Gauhati University, Department of Physics, Guwahati, India
- ⁴² Helmholtz-Institut für Strahlen- und Kernphysik, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Bonn, Germany
- ⁴³ Helsinki Institute of Physics (HIP), Helsinki, Finland
- ⁴⁴ High Energy Physics Group, Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Puebla, Mexico
- ⁴⁵ Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Bucharest, Romania
- ⁴⁶ HUN-REN Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary
- ⁴⁷ Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT), Mumbai, India
- ⁴⁸ Indian Institute of Technology Indore, Indore, India
- ⁴⁹ INFN, Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy
- ⁵⁰ INFN, Sezione di Bari, Bari, Italy
- ⁵¹ INFN, Sezione di Bologna, Bologna, Italy
- ⁵² INFN, Sezione di Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy
- ⁵³ INFN, Sezione di Catania, Catania, Italy
- ⁵⁴ INFN, Sezione di Padova, Padova, Italy
- ⁵⁵ INFN, Sezione di Pavia, Pavia, Italy
- ⁵⁶ INFN, Sezione di Torino, Turin, Italy
- ⁵⁷ INFN, Sezione di Trieste, Trieste, Italy
- ⁵⁸ Inha University, Incheon, Republic of Korea
- ⁵⁹ Institute for Gravitational and Subatomic Physics (GRASP), Utrecht University/Nikhef, Utrecht, Netherlands
- ⁶⁰ Institute of Experimental Physics, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Košice, Slovak Republic
- ⁶¹ Institute of Physics, Homi Bhabha National Institute, Bhubaneswar, India
- ⁶² Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic
- ⁶³ Institute of Space Science (ISS), Bucharest, Romania
- ⁶⁴ Institut für Kernphysik, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany
- ⁶⁵ Instituto de Ciencias Nucleares, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, Mexico
- ⁶⁶ Instituto de Física, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Porto Alegre, Brazil
- ⁶⁷ Instituto de Física, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, Mexico
- ⁶⁸ iThemba LABS, National Research Foundation, Somerset West, South Africa
- ⁶⁹ Jeonbuk National University, Jeonju, Republic of Korea
- ⁷⁰ Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe Universität Frankfurt Institut für Informatik, Fachbereich Informatik und Mathematik, Frankfurt, Germany
- ⁷¹ Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information, Daejeon, Republic of Korea
- ⁷² KTO Karatay University, Konya, Turkey
- ⁷³ Laboratoire de Physique Subatomique et de Cosmologie, Université Grenoble-Alpes, CNRS-IN2P3, Grenoble, France
- ⁷⁴ Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, United States
- ⁷⁵ Lund University Department of Physics, Division of Particle Physics, Lund, Sweden
- ⁷⁶ Nagasaki Institute of Applied Science, Nagasaki, Japan
- ⁷⁷ Nara Women's University (NWU), Nara, Japan
- ⁷⁸ National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, School of Science, Department of Physics, Athens, Greece
- ⁷⁹ National Centre for Nuclear Research, Warsaw, Poland
- ⁸⁰ National Institute of Science Education and Research, Homi Bhabha National Institute, Jatni, India
- ⁸¹ National Nuclear Research Center, Baku, Azerbaijan
- ⁸² National Research and Innovation Agency - BRIN, Jakarta, Indonesia

- 83 Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 84 Nikhef, National institute for subatomic physics, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 85 Nuclear Physics Group, STFC Daresbury Laboratory, Daresbury, United Kingdom
- 86 Nuclear Physics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Husinec-Řež, Czech Republic
- 87 Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, United States
- 88 Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, United States
- 89 Physics department, Faculty of science, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia
- 90 Physics Department, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India
- 91 Physics Department, University of Jammu, Jammu, India
- 92 Physics Program and International Institute for Sustainability with Knotted Chiral Meta Matter (SKCM2), Hiroshima University, Hiroshima, Japan
- 93 Physikalisches Institut, Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany
- 94 Physikalisches Institut, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany
- 95 Physik Department, Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany
- 96 Politecnico di Bari and Sezione INFN, Bari, Italy
- 97 Research Division and ExtreMe Matter Institute EMMI, GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung GmbH, Darmstadt, Germany
- 98 Saga University, Saga, Japan
- 99 Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Homi Bhabha National Institute, Kolkata, India
- 100 School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom
- 101 Sección Física, Departamento de Ciencias, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima, Peru
- 102 Stefan Meyer Institut für Subatomare Physik (SMI), Vienna, Austria
- 103 SUBATECH, IMT Atlantique, Nantes Université, CNRS-IN2P3, Nantes, France
- 104 Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon City, Republic of Korea
- 105 Suranaree University of Technology, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand
- 106 Technical University of Košice, Košice, Slovak Republic
- 107 The Henryk Niewodniczanski Institute of Nuclear Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Cracow, Poland
- 108 The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, United States
- 109 Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa, Culiacán, Mexico
- 110 Universidade de São Paulo (USP), São Paulo, Brazil
- 111 Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP), Campinas, Brazil
- 112 Universidade Federal do ABC, Santo Andre, Brazil
- 113 Universitatea Nationala de Stiinta si Tehnologie Politehnica Bucuresti, Bucharest, Romania
- 114 University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
- 115 University of Derby, Derby, United Kingdom
- 116 University of Houston, Houston, Texas, United States
- 117 University of Jyväskylä, Jyväskylä, Finland
- 118 University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, United States
- 119 University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom
- 120 University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, China
- 121 University of South-Eastern Norway, Kongsberg, Norway
- 122 University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, United States
- 123 University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 124 University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
- 125 University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Japan
- 126 Universität Münster, Institut für Kernphysik, Münster, Germany
- 127 Université Clermont Auvergne, CNRS/IN2P3, LPC, Clermont-Ferrand, France
- 128 Université de Lyon, CNRS/IN2P3, Institut de Physique des 2 Infinis de Lyon, Lyon, France
- 129 Université de Strasbourg, CNRS, IPHC UMR 7178, F-67000 Strasbourg, France, Strasbourg, France
- 130 Université Paris-Saclay, Centre d'Etudes de Saclay (CEA), IRFU, Département de Physique Nucléaire (DPhN), Saclay, France
- 131 Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS/IN2P3, IJCLab, Orsay, France
- 132 Università degli Studi di Foggia, Foggia, Italy
- 133 Università del Piemonte Orientale, Vercelli, Italy
- 134 Università di Brescia, Brescia, Italy
- 135 Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre, Homi Bhabha National Institute, Kolkata, India

¹³⁶ Warsaw University of Technology, Warsaw, Poland

¹³⁷ Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, United States

¹³⁸ Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, United States

¹³⁹ Yonsei University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

¹⁴⁰ Zentrum für Technologie und Transfer (ZTT), Worms, Germany

¹⁴¹ Affiliated with an institute covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN

¹⁴² Affiliated with an international laboratory covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN.