Modification of jet shapes in PbPb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$ TeV

CMS Collaboration

CERN, Switzerland

**Abstract**

The first measurement of jet shapes, defined as the fractional transverse momentum radial distribution, for inclusive jets produced in heavy-ion collisions is presented. Data samples of PbPb and pp collisions, corresponding to integrated luminosities of 150 $\mu$b$^{-1}$ and 5.3 pb$^{-1}$ respectively, were collected at a nucleon–nucleon centre-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$ TeV with the CMS detector at the LHC. The jets are reconstructed with the anti-$k_T$ algorithm with a distance parameter $R = 0.3$, and the jet shapes are measured for charged particles with transverse momentum $p_T > 1$ GeV/c. The jet shapes measured in PbPb collisions in different collision centralities are compared to reference distributions based on the pp data. A centrality-dependent modification of the jet shapes is observed in the more central PbPb collisions, indicating a redistribution of the energy inside the jet cone. This measurement provides information about the parton shower mechanism in the hot and dense medium produced in heavy-ion collisions.

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1. Introduction

High transverse momentum partons produced in heavy-ion collisions are expected to lose energy while traversing the hot and dense medium created in these collisions [1,2]. This phenomenon, known as “jet quenching”, was discovered at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) [3–5] through the observation of a suppressed production of high transverse momentum ($p_T$) particles, and a modification of back-to-back dihadron yields [6,7]. These findings contributed to the conclusion that a strongly coupled quark–gluon plasma (sQGP) is being produced in nucleon–nucleus collisions at RHIC [8–11]. The characterization of the properties of the sQGP and their evolution with centre-of-mass energy is a central goal of the heavy-ion experimental programs at RHIC and at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). Despite the extensive set of RHIC measurements (see e.g. [12] for a review) utilizing high $p_T$ particles that are presumed to be the leading fragments of jets, the jet-medium interactions are not yet completely understood and theoretical descriptions yield significant qualitative differences in the extracted medium properties [13–15].

Measurements involving a full set of jet observables provide more stringent constraints [16,17]. With the order of magnitude increase in the centre-of-mass energy compared to RHIC, jets with energies well above the background from the underlying event are observed at the LHC. This has allowed the study of jet quenching with high $p_T$ particles [18,19], inclusive jets [20,21] and jet coincidence measurements [21–24].

Jet quenching studies have been performed as a function of the collision centrality, defined as a fraction of the total inelastic nucleus–nucleus cross section, with 0% denoting the most central collisions (impact parameter $b = 0$) and 100% denoting the most peripheral collisions. A strong increase in the fraction of jet pairs with largely unbalanced transverse momentum has been observed in central PbPb collisions compared to peripheral collisions and to unquenched Monte-Carlo models [22,24]. The missing jet energy was found to be carried by soft particles that are well separated in direction from the axis of the back-to-back jets [22]. The fragmentation patterns of the jet constituents were found to be consistent with the fragmentation in pp collisions at the same nucleon–nucleon centre-of-mass energy [25] when only high $p_T$ hadrons (>4 GeV/c) are considered. To further elucidate the multi-gluon emission process and the in-medium shower development [26–32], we study the inclusive jet transverse-momentum profiles (shapes) in PbPb collisions of different centralities including low-$p_T$ particles (>1 GeV/c), and perform a direct comparison with the jet shapes measured in pp collisions. The jet shapes describe how the jet transverse momentum is distributed as a function of the radial distance from the jet axis and are expected to contain important information on the energy loss mechanism due to the medium interactions [33–35]. These studies complement the previous measurements [22] in which jet-track correlations were studied in several bins of dijet asymmetry.
Jet shape measurements are challenging due to the difficulties in discriminating hadrons originating in the parton shower from those produced by the thermally equilibrated medium or through soft processes in the underlying event. Furthermore, the lost energy may result in softer hadrons that appear in the tail of the jet energy distribution and require large statistics for any modification of the jet shapes to be measured reliably. During the 2011 heavy-ion data-taking at the LHC, the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment recorded PbPb collisions at a nucleon–nucleon centre-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$ TeV. The integrated luminosity of 150 μb$^{-1}$ for the collected sample is sufficient to allow the first measurement of jet shapes in heavy-ion collisions. A reference measurement in pp collisions at the same centre-of-mass energy has been performed using the data sample from 2013. The pp integrated luminosity of 5.3 pb$^{-1}$ yields a kinematic reach for the jets similar to that in the PbPb data. The modification of the jet shapes in the PbPb collisions is studied in five classes of collision centrality: 0–10%, 10–30%, 30–50%, 50–70% and 70–100%.

2. Experimental setup, triggers, and event selection

The CMS detector [36] features nearly hermetic calorimetric coverage and high-resolution tracking for the reconstruction of energetic jets and charged particles. The calorimeters consist of a lead tungstate crystal electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL) and a brass-scintillator hadron calorimeter (HCAL) with coverage up to $|\eta| = 3$, where $\eta = -\ln([\tan(\theta/2)]$, and $\theta$ is the polar angle relative to the counterclockwise beam direction. The quartz/steel forward hadron calorimeters (HF) extend the calorimetry coverage in the pseudorapidity range of $3 < |\eta| < 5.2$ and are used to determine the centrality of the PbPb collision [37]. The calorimeter cells are grouped in projective towers of granularity $\Delta \eta \times \Delta \phi = 0.087 \times 0.087$ (where $\phi$ is the azimuthal angle in radians) for the central pseudorapidities used in the jet measurement, and have coarser segmentation (about twice as large) at forward pseudorapidity. The central calorimeters are embedded in a superconducting solenoid with 3.8 T central magnetic field. The jet shape measurements are performed using charged particles that are reconstructed starting with the silicon pixel detector that are compatible with a helical trajectory, where all stable particles ($p_T > 1$ GeV/$c$) are included to determine the particle-level jet $p_T$ [38]. The uncertainty on the absolute jet energy scale in pp collisions is about 5% for jet $p_T > 50$ GeV/$c$ with $|\eta| < 3$. In PbPb collisions, due to the influence of the underlying heavy-ion events, this uncertainty increases to about 5%. Charged particles with transverse momentum $p_T > 1$ GeV/$c$ are used to reconstruct the jet shapes. The track finding algorithms and track selection criteria are similar to the ones used in previous CMS publications [18,25]. The tracks are reconstructed starting from a “seed” comprising three reconstructed signals (“hits”) in the silicon pixel detector that are compatible with a helical trajectory with minimum $p_T$ of 0.9 GeV/$c$ originating from a selected region (±1 mm in the transverse direction, and ±2 mm longitudinally) around the reconstructed primary vertex. This seed is then propagated outward through subsequent tracker layers using a combinatorial Kalman-filter algorithm [47]. The PbPb and the pp data are reconstructed using the same procedure. The geometric acceptance and algorithmic efficiencies are not studied separately.
but considered together as an absolute efficiency. The track selection criteria are optimized to ensure that the contribution from misidentified tracks and secondary particles is as low as possible in the whole kinematic range for this analysis (|η| < 2.3), while preserving a reasonable reconstruction efficiency. For the present analysis, the tracking efficiency at $p_T = 1$ GeV/c is 45% in the most central (0–10%) PbPb collisions and 53% in pp collisions. The efficiency increases at higher $p_T$ and is approximately constant above $p_T = 5$ GeV/c, reaching 65% (70%) in PbPb (pp) collisions. The misidentified track and secondary particle contributions are typically below 2% for all the samples used in this analysis, with the exception of particles with $p_T < 2$ GeV/c detected at forward pseudorapidities and in the most central PbPb events, where the misidentified track and secondary particle contributions reach 6% and 3%, respectively. For each centrality class used in the analysis, the charged-particle yields are corrected for efficiency, misidentified track and secondary contributions on a track-by-track basis using a detailed (η, $p_T$) map determined from PYTHIA events embedded into HYDJET background. A similar efficiency correction has been performed for pp data with the correction factors derived from PYTHIA. In the simulation, the corrected reconstructed track $p_T$ distribution agrees within 3% with the generator level inclusive charged-particle distribution at any given $p_T$.

4. Analysis method and systematic uncertainties

The differential jet shape, $\rho(r)$, describes the radial distribution of transverse momentum inside the jet cone:

$$\rho(r) = \frac{1}{\delta r} \frac{1}{N_{\text{jet}}} \sum \frac{\text{tracks}(r, \frac{r}{\delta r})}{p_T^{\text{jet}}} \frac{p_T^{\text{track}}}{p_T^{\text{jet}}}$$

(1)

where the jet cone is divided into six annuli with radial width $\delta r = 0.05$, and each annulus has an inner radius of $r_\text{a} = r - \delta r/2$ and outer radius of $r_\text{b} = r + \delta r/2$.

Here $r = \sqrt{(\eta_{\text{track}} - \eta_{\text{jet}})^2 + (\phi_{\text{track}} - \phi_{\text{jet}})^2}$ ≤ 0.3 is the reconstructed track's radial distance from the jet axis, defined by the coordinates $\eta_{\text{jet}}$ and $\phi_{\text{jet}}$. The transverse momenta of the reconstructed track and jet are denoted $p_T^{\text{track}}$ and $p_T^{\text{jet}}$ respectively. After applying tracking efficiency corrections, the transverse momentum of all charged particles with $p_T > 1$ GeV/c in each annulus is summed to obtain the fraction of the total jet $p_T$ carried by these particles. The results are averaged over the total number of selected jets, $N_{\text{jet}}$.

In heavy-ion collisions, particles from the underlying event that happen to fall inside the jet cone would modify its shape.

To compensate, this contribution is subtracted following a procedure previously employed by CMS in the measurement of the jet fragmentation function [25]. To estimate the charged-particle background, a “background cone” is defined by reflecting the original jet axis about $\eta = 0$, while preserving its $\phi$ coordinate (“η-reflected” method). To avoid overlap between the signal jet region and the background cone, jets with axes in the region $|\eta_{\text{jet}}| < 0.3$ are excluded from the analysis. Larger exclusion regions, up to $|\eta_{\text{jet}}| < 0.8$ have also been studied to investigate possible biases in this procedure due to large-angle correlations between the particles originating from different jets in the event. The size of the exclusion region is not found to be a significant source of systematic uncertainty in the jet-shape measurement.

The charged particles that are found in the background cone are used to evaluate the background jet shape using Eq. (1), which is then subtracted from the reconstructed jet shape that contains both signal and background particles. After background subtraction, the integral of $\rho(r)$ over the range $0 \leq r \leq R$ is normalized to unity. The normalization factor accounts for the average fraction of the total jet $p_T$ carried by charged particles with $p_T > 1$ GeV/c. The differential jet shapes reconstructed using all charged particles (labeled “Signal + Bkg”) and the corresponding background distributions (labeled “Bkg”) are shown in Fig. 1 for the most peripheral (70–100%) and the most central (0–10%) collisions. The background is a small fraction of the result (≤1%) in the centre of the jet but contributes a larger fraction further away from the jet axis. In peripheral events, the fraction of background at large radii is only about 15%, but it is significantly larger (≈85%) in central events.

The background-subtraction technique is validated using MC simulations. Jets generated with PYTHIA are embedded into heavy-ion underlying events of various centrality classes generated with the HYDJET event generator. The results of the differential jet-shape measurements from embedded events are then compared to those obtained from a PYTHIA jet sample at the generator level, using the same analysis procedure. The ratios of the background-subtracted shapes measured from PYTHIA + HYDJET sample and those measured in the PYTHIA sample are shown in Fig. 2 for the five centrality classes used in the analysis. The agreement is better than 5% even for the most central collisions, where the background is relatively large and its fluctuations become important.

An alternative “event-mixing” technique is used as a cross-check of the background subtraction procedure. Minimum-bias-triggered events are considered to be representative of the background. Each jet-triggered event is randomly matched to ten minimum bias PbPb events that are required to have similar global characteristics: the primary vertices have longitudinal positions within 5 cm, the relative difference in centrality is less than 25%,
and the event plane angle, as determined from the azimuthal anisotropy of the energy deposited in the HF calorimeters [47], is the same within 250 mrad. Alternate values for these selection requirements are also studied and lead to negligible differences in the analysis results. The particles from these selected minimum bias events are used to evaluate the background jet shapes corresponding to the jets in the signal sample. The differential jet shapes obtained using this alternative background estimation are then compared to those obtained using the $\eta$-reflection technique and the ratio of the two results is used to estimate a systematic uncertainty as listed in Table 1.

The goal of the present measurement is to study the modifications of the jet structure due to the presence of a hot and dense medium produced in PbPb collisions. To evaluate these modifications in each centrality interval of the PbPb measurements, a dense medium produced in PbPb collisions is smeared using a Gaussian distribution with a standard deviation of the order of 1–2%, depending on the centrality. Next, the jet $p_T$ is smeared using a Gaussian distribution with a standard deviation determined by the quadratic difference of the jet energy resolution in PbPb and pp collisions. The smearing factors are derived from MC studies, which show that the jet momentum response has little or no deviation from a Gaussian shape in both collision systems. The resulting jet $p_T$ spectrum is compared to the spectra in PbPb collisions in each centrality class in order to determine a jet $p_T$-dependent weight. This is applied on a jet-by-jet basis to ensure that the spectra of the jets that are included in the jet shape measurement are identical in the two systems. This is important, since the jet shapes depend on jet $p_T$. Several parametrizations of the $p_T$ dependence of the resolution and the jet energy scale are used to evaluate the uncertainties in this procedure.

Several sources of systematic uncertainties are considered in the measurement of the jet shapes in PbPb collisions and of their nuclear modification factors, $\rho(\eta)/\rho_{pp}$. These sources include the tracking efficiency, the background subtraction method, the jet energy resolution and the jet energy scale. They are evaluated as a function of the jet-track distance $r$ and are summarized in Table 1. Uncertainties are shown for representative radius bins only; they vary smoothly in other radius bins that are not shown. Except for those due to the background subtraction, the systematic uncertainties have little or no centrality dependence. The table shows the maximum values that typically correspond to the most central collisions (0–10%). The uncertainties of the $p_T$-dependent tracking efficiency and misidentified tracks corrections result in uncertainties in the jet shapes, especially at a large distance from the core of the jet ($r \geq 0.2$), where most of the particles have low $p_T$. These uncertainties are less than 7% in the jet shape profile distribution and 4% in the jet shape ratios, and are independent of the centrality of the collisions. The uncertainties resulting from the background subtraction are evaluated using the relative difference in the jet shape distribution obtained with the two background subtraction procedures described above and from the simulation studies at the generator level. In more central events (0–30%), the background subtraction uncertainty is found to be of the order of 2% at the core of the jet and reaches 10% at large distances from the jet axis, where the background is more significant compared to the signal level. These uncertainties are smaller for the more peripheral events (2% for 50–100% and 5% for 30–50% centrality intervals). The uncertainties in the jet energy scale and resolution also have an impact on the measured shapes, as jets migrating in and out of the selected jet $p_T$ range may have a different shape [48]. In PbPb collisions, the uncertainty from this source is of the order of 7% at a large distance from the jet axis, and independent of the centrality of the collisions. In the jet shape ratios, these uncertainties are smaller and have been evaluated by varying the smearing and shifting parameters used in constructing the pp reference spectrum taking into account the relative uncertainty in the jet energy resolution and scale in the two systems. The systematic uncertainties from different sources are added in quadrature.

### Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Distance from jet axis (radius)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$r \leq 0.1$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background subtr.</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracking eff.</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jet energy scale &amp; res.</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Results and Discussion

The differential jet shapes measured in PbPb collisions and the reference constructed based on measurements from pp data are presented in the top row of Fig. 3 for five centrality classes, varying from most peripheral 70–100% (left) to most central 0–10% (right). In both collision systems, 85% of the transverse momentum is concentrated in the core of the jet at radii $r < 0.1$, and the small amount ($\approx 5\%$) of $p_T$ contained at radii $r > 0.2$ is carried by low-$p_T$ particles. The largest differences between the jet shapes measured in the PbPb and pp systems are observed at large radii in the most central PbPb collisions. To quantify these modifications, the ratios $\rho(\eta)/\rho_{pp}$ are plotted in the bottom row of Fig. 3. Deviations from unity indicate a modification of jet structure in the nuclear medium. Recall that the integrals of the jet shapes are normalized to unity and, as a result, an excess at one distance $r$ from the jet axis has to be compensated by a depletion at another location. In the peripheral collisions (70–100%), the ratio is close to unity within the uncertainties in the whole measured range, which indicates that the radial distribution of the summed transverse momentum of the particles inside the jets is similar in the
two systems. In more central PbPb collisions (0–70%), a depletion is observed in the region $0.1 < r < 0.2$ with a typical value of the ratio $\rho(r)_{\text{PbPb}}/\rho(r)_{\text{pp}}$ around 0.84 and a total uncertainty of less than 7%. In the most central PbPb collisions (10–30% and 0–10%), an excess of transverse momentum fraction emitted at large radius $r > 0.2$ emerges, indicating a moderate broadening of the jets in the medium. At the largest radius $0.25 < r < 0.3$, the value of the ratio $\rho(r)_{\text{PbPb}}/\rho(r)_{\text{pp}}$ is $1.04 \pm 0.05$ (stat.) $\pm 0.15$ (syst.) for the most peripheral collisions (70–100%), while in the central collisions (10–30% and 0–10%) it increases to $1.27 \pm 0.03$ (stat.) $\pm 0.15$ (syst.) and $1.35 \pm 0.05$ (stat.) $\pm 0.16$ (syst.), respectively. These observations are consistent with previous studies in CMS which find that the energy that the jets lose in the medium is redistributed at large distances from the jet axis outside the jet cone [22]. The differential study of the jet structure presented here provides important additional information and shows that nuclear modifications are also present inside the jet cone. Qualitatively, a similar trend is important additional information and shows that nuclear modifications are also present inside the jet cone. Qualitatively, a similar trend is expected at intermediate radii, $0.1 < r < 0.2$, and an excess at large radii, $r > 0.2$. These results are important for characterizing the shower evolution in the presence of a hot and dense nuclear medium.

6. Summary

The first measurement of jet shapes in PbPb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 2.76$ TeV has been performed. The results have been compared to reference shapes measured in pp collisions at the same centre-of-mass energy. Inclusive jets with $p_T^{\text{jet}} > 100$ GeV/c and $0.3 < |y| < 2$ have been reconstructed using the anti-$k_T$ algorithm with a distance parameter $R = 0.3$, and the jet shapes have been studied using charged particles with $p_T > 1$ GeV/c as a function of collision centrality. In peripheral collisions, the shapes in PbPb are similar to those in the pp reference distributions. A centrality-dependent modification of the jet shapes emerges in the more central PbPb collisions. A redistribution of the jet energy inside the cone is found, specifically, a depletion of jet transverse momentum fraction at intermediate radii, $0.1 < r < 0.2$, and an excess at large radii, $r > 0.2$. These results are important for characterizing the shower evolution in the presence of a hot and dense nuclear medium.

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CMS Collaboration

S. Chatrchyan, V. Khachatryan, A.M. Sirunyan, A. Tumasyan

Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia


Institut für Hochenergiephysik der OeAW, Wien, Austria

V. Mossolov, N. Shumeiko, J. Suarez Gonzalez

National Centre for Particle and High Energy Physics, Minsk, Belarus


Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium


Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium


Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium


Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium


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

N. Beliy, T. Caebers, E. Daubie, G.H. Hammad

Université de Mons, Mons, Belgium


Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Fisicas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

W.L. Aldá Júnior, W. Carvalho, J. Chinellato 6, A. Custódio, E.M. Da Costa, D. De Jesus Damiao, C. De Oliveira Martins, S. Fonseca De Souza, H. Malbouisson, M. Malek, D. Matos Figueiredo,
L. Mundim, H. Nogima, W.L. Prado Da Silva, A. Santoro, A. Szajnder, E.J. Tonelli Manganote, A. Vilela Pereira

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


Universidade Estadual Paulista, São Paulo, Brazil

Faculty of Physics, Federal University of ABC, São Paulo, Brazil

V. Genchev, P. Iaydjiev, S. Piperov, M. Rodozov, G. Sultanov, M. Vutova

Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy, Sofia, Bulgaria

A. Dimitrov, R. Hadjiiska, V. Kozhuharov, L. Litov, B. Pavlov, P. Petkov

University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria


Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing, China

C. Asawatangtrakuldee, Y. Ban, Y. Guo, Q. Li, W. Li, S. Liu, Y. Mao, S.J. Qian, D. Wang, L. Zhang, W. Zou

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

C. Avila, C.A. Carrillo Montoya, L.F. Chaparro Sierra, J.P. Gomez, B. Gomez Moreno, J.C. Sanabria

Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia

N. Godinovic, D. Lelas, R. Plestina, D. Polic, I. Puljak

Technical University of Split, Split, Croatia

Z. Antunovic, M. Kovac

University of Split, Split, Croatia

V. Brigljevic, K. Kadija, J. Luetic, D. Mekterovic, S. Morovic, L. Tivkica

Institute Rudjer Boskovic, Zagreb, Croatia

A. Attikis, G. Mavromanolakis, J. Mousa, C. Nicolaou, F. Ptochos, P.A. Razis

University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus

M. Finger, M. Finger Jr.

Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

A.A. Abdelalim, Y. Assran, S. Elgamal, A. Ellithi Kamel, M.A. Mahmoud, A. Radi

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

M. Kadastik, M. Müntel, M. Murumaa, M. Raidal, L. Rebane, A. Tiko

National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia

P. Eerola, G. Fedi, M. Voutilainen

Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland


Helsinki Institute of Physics, Helsinki, Finland

Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany


University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany


Institut für Experimentelle Kernphysik, Karlsruhe, Germany


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

L. Gouskos, A. Panagiotou, N. Saoulidou, E. Stiliaris

University of Athens, Athens, Greece

X. Aslanoglou, I. Evangelou, G. Flouris, C. Foudas, P. Kokkas, N. Manthos, I. Papadopoulos, E. Paradas

University of Ioánnina, Ioánnina, Greece

G. Bencze, C. Hajdu, P. Hidas, D. Horváth, F. Sikler, V. Veszpremi, G. Vesztergombi, A.J. Zsigmond

KFKI Research Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, Budapest, Hungary

N. Beni, S. Czellar, J. Molnar, J. Palinkas, Z. Szillasi

Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary

J. Karancsi, P. Raics, Z.L. Trocsanyi, B. Ujvari

University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary

S.K. Swain

National Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhubaneswar, India

S.B. Beri, V. Bhatnagar, N. Dhingra, R. Gupta, M. Kaur, M.Z. Mehta, M. Mittal, N. Nishu, A. Sharma, J.B. Singh

Punjab University, Chandigarh, India

Ashok Kumar, Arun Kumar, S. Ahuja, A. Bhardwaj, B.C. Choudhary, S. Malhotra, M. Naimuddin, K. Ranjan, P. Saxena, V. Sharma, R.K. Shivpuri

University of Delhi, Delhi, India


Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, India
S. Chang, T.Y. Kim, S.K. Nam

*Kangwon National University, Chunchon, Korea*

D.H. Kim, G.N. Kim, J.E. Kim, D.J. Kong, S. Lee, Y.D. Oh, H. Park, D.C. Son

*Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea*

J.Y. Kim, Zero J. Kim, S. Song

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

S. Choi, D. Gyun, B. Hong, M. Jo, H. Kim, T.J. Kim, K.S. Lee, S.K. Park, Y. Roh

*Korea University, Seoul, Korea*

M. Choi, J.H. Kim, C. Park, I.C. Park, S. Park, G. Ryu

*University of Seoul, Seoul, Korea*


*Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, Korea*

I. Grigelionis, A. Juodagalvis

*Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania*


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

S. Carrillo Moreno, F. Vazquez Valencia

*Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico*

H.A. Salazar Ibarguen

*Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, Puebla, Mexico*

E. Casimiro Linares, A. Morelos Pineda, M.A. Reyes-Santos

*Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, San Luis Potosí, Mexico*

D. Krofcheck

*University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand*

P.H. Butler, R. Doesburg, S. Reucroft, H. Silverwood

*University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand*


*National Centre for Physics, Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan*


*National Centre for Nuclear Research, Swierk, Poland*


*Institute of Experimental Physics, Faculty of Physics, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland*
C. Martinez Rivero, F. Matorras, F.J. Munoz Sanchez, T. Rodrigo, A.Y. Rodríguez-Marrero, A. Ruiz-Jimeno, L. Scodellaro, I. Vila, R. Vilar Cortabitarte

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


CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland


CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland


Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland


Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland

C. Amsler, V. Chiochia, C. Favaro, M. Ivova Rikova, B. Kilminster, B. Millan Mejias, P. Robmann, H. Snoek, S. Taroni, M. Verzetti, Y. Yang

Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland


National Central University, Chung-Li, Taiwan


National Taiwan University (NTU), Taipei, Taiwan

B. Asavapibhop, N. Suwonjandee

Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand


Cukurova University, Adana, Turkey

Middle East Technical University, Physics Department, Ankara, Turkey

E. Gülmez, B. Isildak, M. Kaya, O. Kaya, S. Ozkorucuklu, N. Sonmez

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey

H. Bahtiyar, E. Barlas, K. Cankocak, Y.O. Günaydin, F.I. Vardarlı, M. Yücel

Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey

L. Levchuk, P. Sorokin

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


University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom


Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom


Imperial College, London, United Kingdom


Brunel University, Uxbridge, United Kingdom

J. Dittmann, K. Hatakeyama, A. Kasmi, H. Liu, T. Scarborough

Baylor University, Waco, USA

O. Charaf, S.I. Cooper, C. Henderson, P. Rumerio

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA

A. Avetisyan, T. Bose, C. Fantasia, A. Heister, P. Lawson, D. Lazic, J. Rohlf, D. Sperka, J. St. John, L. Sulak

Boston University, Boston, USA


Brown University, Providence, USA

A. Drozdetskiy, R.D. Field, M. Fisher, Y. Fu, I.K. Furic, J. Hugon, B. Kim, J. Konigsberg, A. Korytov,
A. Kropivnitskaya, T. Kypreos, J.F. Low, K. Matchev, P. Milenovic 56, G. Mitselmakher, L. Muniz,
R. Remington, A. Rinkevicius, N. Skhirtladze, M. Snowball, J. Yelton, M. Zakaria

University of Florida, Gainesville, USA

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

H. Prosper, V. Veeraraghavan, M. Weinberg
Florida State University, Tallahassee, USA

M.M. Baarmand, B. Dorney, M. Hohlmann, H. Kalakhety, F. Yumiceva
Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, USA

M.R. Adams, L. Apanasevich, V.E. Bazterra, R.R. Betts, I. Bucinskaite, J. Callner, R. Cavanaugh,
O. Evdokimov, L. Gauthier, C.E. Gerber, D.J. Hofman, S. Khalatyan, P. Kurt, F. Lacroix, D.H. Moon,
University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Chicago, USA

H. Mermerkaya 58, A. Mestvirishvili, A. Moeller, J. Nachtman, C.R. Newsom, H. Ogul, Y. Onel, F. Ozok 50,
S. Sen, P. Tan, E. Tiras, J. Wetzel, T. Yetkin 59, K. Yi
The University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA

B.A. Barnett, B. Blumenfeld, S. Bolognesi, G. Giurgiu, A.V. Gritsan, G. Hu, P. Maksimovic, C. Martin,
M. Swartz, A. Whitbeck
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA

The University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA

A.F. Barfuss, I. Chakaberia, A. Ivanov, S. Khalil, M. Makouski, Y. Maravin, L.K. Saini, S. Shrestha,
I. Svintradze
Kansas State University, Manhattan, USA

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

A. Baden, B. Calvert, S.C. Eno, J.A. Gomez, N.J. Hadley, R.G. Kellogg, T. Kolberg, Y. Lu, M. Marionneau,
University of Maryland, College Park, USA

A. Apyan, G. Bauer, W. Busza, I.A. Cali, M. Chan, L. Di Matteo, V. Dutta, G. Gomez Ceballos,
M. Goncharov, D. Gulhan, Y. Kim, M. Klute, Y.S. Lai, A. Levin, P.D. Luckey, T. Ma, S. Nahn, C. Paus,
M. Yang, Y. Yilmaz, A.S. Yoon, M. Zanetti, V. Zhukova
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA