



Measurement of the differential dijet production cross section in proton–proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV[☆]

CMS Collaboration[☆]

CERN, Geneva, Switzerland

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ABSTRACT

A measurement of the double-differential inclusive dijet production cross section in proton–proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV is presented as a function of the dijet invariant mass and jet rapidity. The data correspond to an integrated luminosity of 36 pb^{-1} , recorded with the CMS detector at the LHC. The measurement covers the dijet mass range 0.2 TeV to 3.5 TeV and jet rapidities up to $|y| = 2.5$. It is found to be in good agreement with next-to-leading-order QCD predictions.

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In Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD), events with two high transverse momentum jets (dijets) arise in proton–proton collisions from parton–parton scattering, where the outgoing scattered partons manifest themselves as hadronic jets. The invariant mass M_{JJ} of the two jets is related to the proton momentum fractions $x_{1,2}$ carried by the scattering partons: $M_{JJ}^2 = x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot s$, where $\sqrt{s}$ is the centre-of-mass energy of the colliding protons. The dijet cross section as a function of M_{JJ} can be precisely calculated in perturbative QCD and allows also a sensitive search for physics beyond the Standard Model, such as dijet resonances or contact interactions. In this Letter, the measurement of the double-differential inclusive dijet production cross section ($p + p \rightarrow \text{jet} + \text{jet} + X$) is reported as a function of the dijet invariant mass and jet rapidity at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV. The data were collected with the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector at the CERN Large Hadron Collider (LHC) during the 2010 run and correspond to an integrated luminosity of 36 pb^{-1} . The measured cross section is compared to the QCD predictions in an unexplored kinematic region, beyond the reach of previous measurements [1–3]. The parton momentum fractions probed in this measurement correspond to $8 \cdot 10^{-4} \leq x_1 \cdot x_2 \leq 0.25$. Dedicated searches for dijet resonances and contact interactions with the CMS detector have been reported elsewhere [4–6].

The CMS coordinate system has its origin at the centre of the detector, with the z-axis pointing along the direction of the counterclockwise beam. The azimuthal angle is denoted as ϕ , the polar angle as θ , and the pseudorapidity is defined as $\eta = -\ln[\tan(\theta/2)]$. The central feature of the CMS detector is a superconducting solenoid, of 6 m internal diameter, that produces an axial magnetic field of 3.8 T. Within the field volume are the silicon pixel and strip tracker, a lead-tungstate crystal electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL) and a brass/scintillator hadronic calorimeter. Outside the field volume, in the forward region ($3 < |\eta| < 5$), is an iron/quartz-fiber hadronic calorimeter. Muons are measured in gas detectors embedded in the steel return yoke outside the solenoid, in the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 2.4$. A detailed description of the CMS experiment can be found in Ref. [7].

Jets are reconstructed using the anti- k_T clustering algorithm [8] with size parameter $R = 0.7$. The clustering is performed using four-momentum summation, where the chosen size parameter allows for the capture of most of the parton shower and improves the dijet mass resolution with respect to smaller sizes. The rapidity y and the transverse momentum p_T of a jet with energy E and momentum $\vec{p} = (p_x, p_y, p_z)$ are defined as $y = \frac{1}{2} \ln\left(\frac{E+p_z}{E-p_z}\right)$ and $p_T = \sqrt{p_x^2 + p_y^2}$, respectively. The inputs to the jet clustering algorithm are the four-momentum vectors of the reconstructed particles. Each such particle is reconstructed with the particle-flow technique [9] which combines the information from several subdetectors. The resulting jets require an additional energy correction

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^{*} E-mail address: cms-publication-committee-chair@cern.ch.

Table 1

The integrated luminosity for each of the data samples.

Min. jet p_T (GeV)	30	50	70	100	140
$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}$ (pb^{-1})	0.32	3.2	8.6	19	36

to take into account the non-linear and non-uniform response of the CMS calorimetric system to the neutral-hadron component of the jet (the momentum of charged hadrons and photons is measured accurately by the tracker and the ECAL, respectively). The jet-energy corrections are derived using simulated events, generated by PYTHIA6.4.22 (PYTHIA6) [10] and processed through the CMS detector simulation based on GEANT4 [11], and *in situ* measurements with dijet and photon + jet events [12]. An offset correction is also applied to take into account the extra energy clustered in jets due to additional proton–proton interactions within the same bunch crossing (pile-up). The jet-energy correction depends on the η and p_T of the jet, and is applied as a multiplicative factor to the jet four-momentum vector. The multiplicative factor is in general smaller than 1.2, and approximately uniform in η . For a jet $p_T = 100$ GeV the typical factor is 1.1, decreasing towards 1.0 with increasing p_T . The dijet mass is calculated from the corrected four-momentum vectors of the two jets with the highest p_T (leading jets): $M_{JJ} = \sqrt{(E_1 + E_2)^2 - (\vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2)^2}$. The relative dijet-mass resolution, estimated from the simulation, ranges from 7% at $M_{JJ} = 0.2$ TeV to 3% at $M_{JJ} = 3$ TeV.

The data samples used for this measurement were collected with single-jet high level triggers (HLT) [13] which required at least one jet in the event to satisfy the condition $p_T > 30, 50, 70, 100$ and 140 GeV, respectively, in uncorrected jet transverse momentum. The online jet reconstruction used only calorimetric information and the resulting HLT jets had typically much lower energy response than the offline particle-flow jets. The lower- p_T triggers were prescaled and the corresponding integrated luminosity of each trigger sample, $\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}$, is listed in Table 1. In the offline analysis, events are further required to have at least one well reconstructed proton–proton interaction vertex [14] and at least two reconstructed particle-flow jets with $p_{T1} > 60$ GeV and $p_{T2} > 30$ GeV (corrected). In order to suppress non-physical events, the two leading jets must satisfy loose identification criteria: each jet should contain at least two particles, one of which is a charged hadron. Furthermore, the jet energy fraction carried by neutral hadrons and photons should be less than 99%. If either of the leading jets fails the identification criteria, the event is discarded. The measurement is performed in five rapidity regions, defined by the maximum absolute rapidity $|y|_{\text{max}} = \max(|y_1|, |y_2|)$ of the two leading jets in the event. The use of the variable $|y|_{\text{max}}$ divides the phase space of the dijet system into exclusive rapidity bins, which correspond to different scattering angles at the centre-of-mass frame. Low values of $|y|_{\text{max}}$ probe the large-angle scattering (*s* channel), while large values of $|y|_{\text{max}}$ probe the small-angle scattering (*t* channel). For the construction of the invariant mass spectrum, each dijet-mass bin is populated by events collected only with the fully efficient trigger with the highest threshold. The efficiency of each trigger path, as a function of M_{JJ} , was measured using events collected with a lower threshold single-jet trigger and cross-checked with events collected with single-muon triggers.

The double-differential cross section is defined as

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{dM_{JJ} d|y|_{\text{max}}} = \frac{\mathcal{C}}{\epsilon \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} \Delta M_{JJ} \Delta |y|_{\text{max}}}, \quad (1)$$

where N is the number of events in the bin, $\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}$ is the integrated luminosity of the data sample from which the events are taken,

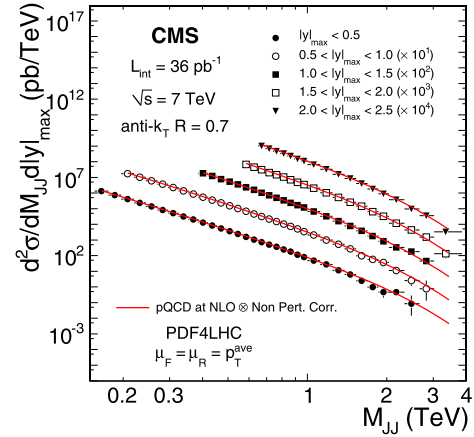


Fig. 1. Measured double-differential dijet production cross sections (points), scaled by the factors shown in the figure, as a function of the dijet invariant mass, in bins of the variable $|y|_{\text{max}}$, compared to the theoretical predictions (curves). The horizontal error bars represent the bin widths, while the vertical error bars represent the statistical uncertainties of the data.

$\mathcal{C}$ is a correction factor for bin-to-bin migration, ϵ is the product of the trigger and event selection efficiencies (greater than 99%), and ΔM_{JJ} and $\Delta |y|_{\text{max}}$ are the invariant mass and rapidity bin widths, respectively. The width of the mass bins is progressively increased, proportional to the mass resolution. The correction factor $\mathcal{C}$ is taken from the simulation, as follows. Jets reconstructed with the same clustering algorithm from generated particles are smeared according to the simulated energy resolution and the correction factor $\mathcal{C}$ is defined as the ratio of the generated over the smeared numbers of events in a given dijet-mass bin. It ranges between 0.95 and 0.98, depending on the dijet mass and the rapidity region. Fig. 1 shows the double-differential cross section as a function of the dijet mass in different bins of $|y|_{\text{max}}$. The exact mass ranges and the cross-section values are reported in Tables 2–6. The quoted reference mass for each bin is the mass value m_0 that satisfies the equation $f(m_0)(m_2 - m_1) = \int_{m_1}^{m_2} f(m) dm$, where m_1, m_2 are the bin boundaries and $f(m) = A \cdot (m/\sqrt{s})^{-a} \cdot (1 - m/\sqrt{s})^b$, with parameters obtained from a fit to the mass spectrum. The definition of the reference mass follows the approach described in [15].

The systematic uncertainty on the measured cross section is asymmetric and dominated by the uncertainty on the jet-energy scale. The latter varies between 3% and 5% [12] and is approximately uniform in η , introducing a 15% (60%) uncertainty on the cross section at $M_{JJ} = 0.2$ TeV (3 TeV). The uncertainty on the integrated luminosity is estimated to be 4% [16] and propagates directly to the cross section. The jet-energy resolution uncertainty of 10% [17] propagates to the dijet mass resolution, which affects the unsmeared correction, introducing a 1% uncertainty on the cross section. Other sources of experimental uncertainty, such as the jet angular resolution and the Monte Carlo p_T spectrum used to calculate the smearing effect, introduce negligible uncertainties on the cross section. The quoted experimental systematic uncertainties of the individual dijet-mass bins are almost 100% correlated.

The theoretical prediction for the double-differential cross sections consists of a next-to-leading-order QCD calculation and a non-perturbative correction to account for the multiparton interactions (MPI) and hadronisation effects. The NLO calculations are done using the NLOJet++ program (v2.0.1) [18] within the framework of the fastNLO package (v1.4) [19] at renormalization and factorization scales (μ_R and μ_F) equal to the average transverse momentum p_T^{ave} of the two jets. The NLO calculation is performed

Table 2

Double-differential dijet mass cross section in the rapidity range $|y|_{\max} < 0.5$. The reference mass is the point at which the cross section is drawn in Figs. 1 and 2 and is calculated as described in the text. The experimental systematic uncertainties of the individual dijet-mass bins are almost 100% correlated.

Mass range (TeV)	Reference mass (TeV)	Measured cross section (pb/TeV)	Statistical uncertainty %	Systematic uncertainty %
[0.156, 0.176]	0.165	1.32×10^6	-1.1, +1.1	-10, +11
[0.176, 0.197]	0.186	7.26×10^5	-1.4, +1.4	-10, +12
[0.197, 0.220]	0.208	4.12×10^5	-1.8, +1.8	-11, +12
[0.220, 0.244]	0.231	2.35×10^5	-0.7, +0.7	-11, +12
[0.244, 0.270]	0.256	1.39×10^5	-0.9, +0.9	-11, +12
[0.270, 0.296]	0.282	8.18×10^4	-0.7, +0.7	-11, +13
[0.296, 0.325]	0.310	5.08×10^4	-0.9, +0.9	-11, +13
[0.325, 0.354]	0.339	3.18×10^4	-1.1, +1.1	-11, +13
[0.354, 0.386]	0.369	2.04×10^4	-1.3, +1.3	-12, +13
[0.386, 0.419]	0.402	1.28×10^4	-1.1, +1.1	-12, +14
[0.419, 0.453]	0.435	8.22×10^3	-1.4, +1.4	-12, +14
[0.453, 0.489]	0.470	5.42×10^3	-1.6, +1.6	-12, +14
[0.489, 0.526]	0.507	3.65×10^3	-1.4, +1.5	-13, +14
[0.526, 0.565]	0.545	2.44×10^3	-1.7, +1.7	-13, +15
[0.565, 0.606]	0.585	1.58×10^3	-2.1, +2.1	-13, +15
[0.606, 0.649]	0.627	1.05×10^3	-2.5, +2.5	-13, +16
[0.649, 0.693]	0.670	7.35×10^2	-2.9, +3.0	-14, +16
[0.693, 0.740]	0.716	5.05×10^2	-3.4, +3.5	-14, +16
[0.740, 0.788]	0.763	3.62×10^2	-4.0, +4.2	-14, +17
[0.788, 0.838]	0.812	2.45×10^2	-4.8, +5.0	-15, +17
[0.838, 0.890]	0.863	1.77×10^2	-5.5, +5.8	-15, +18
[0.890, 0.944]	0.916	1.13×10^2	-6.8, +7.2	-15, +18
[0.944, 1.000]	0.971	7.94×10^1	-7.9, +8.5	-16, +19
[1.000, 1.118]	1.055	4.76×10^1	-7.0, +7.5	-16, +20
[1.118, 1.246]	1.178	2.72×10^1	-8.9, +9.8	-17, +21
[1.246, 1.383]	1.310	1.14×10^1	-13, +15	-18, +22
[1.383, 1.530]	1.452	6.24	-17, +21	-19, +24
[1.530, 1.687]	1.604	2.48	-26, +35	-20, +26
[1.687, 1.856]	1.766	9.85×10^{-1}	-40, +60	-22, +28
[1.856, 2.037]	1.941	4.59×10^{-1}	-54, +97	-23, +31
[2.037, 2.332]	2.170	4.69×10^{-1}	-43, +68	-25, +34
[2.332, 2.659]	2.479	8.45×10^{-2}	-83, +230	-29, +40

Table 3

Double-differential dijet mass cross section in the rapidity range $0.5 < |y|_{\max} < 1.0$. The reference mass is the point at which the cross section is drawn in Figs. 1 and 2 and is calculated as described in the text. The experimental systematic uncertainties of the individual dijet-mass bins are almost 100% correlated.

Mass range (TeV)	Reference mass (TeV)	Measured cross section (pb/TeV)	Statistical uncertainty %	Systematic uncertainty %
[0.197, 0.220]	0.208	1.74×10^6	-0.8, +0.9	-11, +12
[0.220, 0.244]	0.231	1.02×10^6	-1.1, +1.1	-11, +12
[0.244, 0.270]	0.256	6.00×10^5	-1.4, +1.4	-11, +12
[0.270, 0.296]	0.282	3.64×10^5	-1.7, +1.8	-11, +12
[0.296, 0.325]	0.310	2.22×10^5	-0.7, +0.7	-11, +13
[0.325, 0.354]	0.339	1.38×10^5	-0.8, +0.9	-11, +13
[0.354, 0.386]	0.369	8.64×10^4	-1.0, +1.0	-12, +13
[0.386, 0.419]	0.402	5.42×10^4	-0.8, +0.8	-12, +13
[0.419, 0.453]	0.435	3.55×10^4	-1.0, +1.0	-12, +14
[0.453, 0.489]	0.470	2.34×10^4	-1.1, +1.2	-12, +14
[0.489, 0.526]	0.507	1.53×10^4	-0.9, +0.9	-12, +14
[0.526, 0.565]	0.545	1.01×10^4	-1.1, +1.1	-13, +15
[0.565, 0.606]	0.585	6.90×10^3	-1.3, +1.3	-13, +15
[0.606, 0.649]	0.627	4.60×10^3	-1.6, +1.6	-13, +15
[0.649, 0.693]	0.670	3.15×10^3	-1.4, +1.4	-13, +16
[0.693, 0.740]	0.716	2.14×10^3	-1.7, +1.7	-14, +16
[0.740, 0.788]	0.763	1.48×10^3	-2.0, +2.0	-14, +16
[0.788, 0.838]	0.812	1.04×10^3	-2.3, +2.4	-14, +17
[0.838, 0.890]	0.863	7.42×10^2	-2.7, +2.8	-15, +17
[0.890, 0.944]	0.916	5.01×10^2	-3.2, +3.3	-15, +18
[0.944, 1.000]	0.971	3.37×10^2	-3.8, +4.0	-15, +18
[1.000, 1.118]	1.055	2.08×10^2	-3.4, +3.5	-16, +19
[1.118, 1.246]	1.178	9.94×10^1	-4.7, +4.9	-17, +20
[1.246, 1.383]	1.310	5.38×10^1	-6.1, +6.5	-18, +22
[1.383, 1.530]	1.452	2.73×10^1	-8.3, +9.0	-19, +23
[1.530, 1.687]	1.604	9.70	-13, +15	-20, +25
[1.687, 1.856]	1.766	5.73	-17, +20	-21, +27
[1.856, 2.037]	1.941	3.66	-20, +25	-23, +30
[2.037, 2.332]	2.170	1.12	-28, +38	-25, +33
[2.332, 2.659]	2.479	2.52×10^{-1}	-54, +97	-28, +39
[2.659, 3.019]	2.819	7.62×10^{-2}	-83, +230	-32, +47

Table 4
Double-differential dijet mass cross section in the rapidity range $1.0 < |y|_{\text{max}} < 1.5$. The reference mass is the point at which the cross section is drawn in Figs. 1 and 2 and is calculated as described in the text. The experimental systematic uncertainties of the individual dijet-mass bins are almost 100% correlated.

Mass range (TeV)	Reference mass (TeV)	Measured cross section (pb/TeV)	Statistical uncertainty %	Systematic uncertainty %
[0.386, 0.419]	0.402	1.84×10^5	−2.2, +2.3	−12, +13
[0.419, 0.453]	0.435	1.21×10^5	−2.7, +2.8	−12, +13
[0.453, 0.489]	0.470	7.77×10^4	−3.3, +3.4	−12, +14
[0.489, 0.526]	0.507	5.26×10^4	−1.2, +1.2	−12, +14
[0.526, 0.565]	0.545	3.56×10^4	−1.5, +1.5	−12, +14
[0.565, 0.606]	0.585	2.31×10^4	−1.8, +1.8	−13, +15
[0.606, 0.649]	0.627	1.60×10^4	−2.1, +2.1	−13, +15
[0.649, 0.693]	0.670	1.04×10^4	−1.6, +1.6	−13, +15
[0.693, 0.740]	0.716	7.20×10^3	−1.8, +1.9	−13, +16
[0.740, 0.788]	0.763	4.98×10^3	−2.2, +2.2	−14, +16
[0.788, 0.838]	0.812	3.35×10^3	−2.6, +2.7	−14, +16
[0.838, 0.890]	0.863	2.34×10^3	−2.0, +2.1	−14, +17
[0.890, 0.944]	0.916	1.65×10^3	−2.4, +2.5	−15, +17
[0.944, 1.000]	0.971	1.18×10^3	−2.8, +2.9	−15, +18
[1.000, 1.118]	1.055	6.61×10^2	−2.6, +2.6	−16, +19
[1.118, 1.246]	1.178	3.22×10^2	−2.6, +2.7	−16, +20
[1.246, 1.383]	1.310	1.57×10^2	−3.6, +3.7	−17, +21
[1.383, 1.530]	1.452	7.86×10^1	−4.9, +5.1	−18, +22
[1.530, 1.687]	1.603	3.80×10^1	−6.8, +7.3	−19, +24
[1.687, 1.856]	1.766	1.75×10^1	−9.6, +11	−20, +26
[1.856, 2.037]	1.941	8.32	−13, +15	−22, +28
[2.037, 2.332]	2.170	3.33	−17, +20	−23, +31
[2.332, 2.659]	2.478	1.83	−21, +26	−26, +35
[2.659, 3.019]	2.819	4.51×10^{-1}	−40, +60	−29, +41

Table 5
Double-differential dijet mass cross section in the rapidity range $1.5 < |y|_{\text{max}} < 2.0$. The reference mass is the point at which the cross section is drawn in Figs. 1 and 2 and is calculated as described in the text. The experimental systematic uncertainties of the individual dijet-mass bins are almost 100% correlated.

Mass range (TeV)	Reference mass (TeV)	Measured cross section (pb/TeV)	Statistical uncertainty %	Systematic uncertainty %
[0.565, 0.606]	0.585	6.68×10^4	−3.1, +3.2	−12, +14
[0.606, 0.649]	0.627	4.52×10^4	−3.7, +3.9	−12, +14
[0.649, 0.693]	0.670	3.05×10^4	−4.5, +4.7	−12, +14
[0.693, 0.740]	0.716	2.02×10^4	−1.7, +1.7	−13, +15
[0.740, 0.788]	0.763	1.47×10^4	−2.0, +2.0	−13, +15
[0.788, 0.838]	0.812	1.04×10^4	−2.3, +2.4	−13, +15
[0.838, 0.890]	0.863	6.92×10^3	−2.8, +2.8	−13, +16
[0.890, 0.944]	0.916	4.77×10^3	−2.1, +2.1	−14, +16
[0.944, 1.000]	0.971	3.41×10^3	−2.4, +2.4	−14, +16
[1.000, 1.118]	1.055	2.04×10^3	−2.1, +2.2	−14, +17
[1.118, 1.246]	1.178	1.04×10^3	−2.0, +2.0	−15, +18
[1.246, 1.383]	1.310	5.20×10^2	−2.7, +2.7	−16, +19
[1.383, 1.530]	1.452	2.60×10^2	−3.6, +3.8	−17, +21
[1.530, 1.687]	1.604	1.45×10^2	−4.7, +5.0	−18, +22
[1.687, 1.856]	1.766	6.31×10^1	−5.1, +5.3	−19, +24
[1.856, 2.037]	1.941	3.24×10^1	−6.8, +7.3	−21, +26
[2.037, 2.332]	2.170	1.18×10^1	−8.9, +9.7	−23, +29
[2.332, 2.659]	2.479	4.37	−14, +16	−26, +34
[2.659, 3.019]	2.820	1.52	−22, +28	−29, +41
[3.019, 3.854]	3.344	1.31×10^{-1}	−48, +79	−35, +54

Table 6
Double-differential dijet mass cross section in the rapidity range $2.0 < |y|_{\text{max}} < 2.5$. The reference mass is the point at which the cross section is drawn in Figs. 1 and 2 and is calculated as described in the text. The experimental systematic uncertainties of the individual dijet-mass bins are almost 100% correlated.

Mass range (TeV)	Reference mass (TeV)	Measured cross section (pb/TeV)	Statistical uncertainty %	Systematic uncertainty %
[0.649, 0.693]	0.670	1.00×10^5	−2.5, +2.5	−13, +15
[0.693, 0.740]	0.716	6.70×10^4	−2.9, +3.0	−13, +15
[0.740, 0.788]	0.763	4.63×10^4	−3.5, +3.6	−13, +15
[0.788, 0.838]	0.812	3.29×10^4	−4.1, +4.2	−13, +15
[0.838, 0.890]	0.863	2.31×10^4	−4.8, +5.0	−13, +16
[0.890, 0.944]	0.916	1.52×10^4	−1.8, +1.9	−14, +16
[0.944, 1.000]	0.971	1.11×10^4	−2.1, +2.2	−14, +16

Table 6 (Continued)

Mass range (TeV)	Reference mass (TeV)	Measured cross section (pb/TeV)	Statistical uncertainty %	Systematic uncertainty %
[1.000, 1.118]	1.055	6.41×10^3	-1.9, +1.9	-14, +16
[1.118, 1.246]	1.178	3.26×10^3	-2.6, +2.6	-14, +17
[1.246, 1.383]	1.310	1.59×10^3	-2.2, +2.3	-15, +18
[1.383, 1.530]	1.452	8.39×10^2	-3.0, +3.1	-16, +18
[1.530, 1.687]	1.604	4.01×10^2	-4.2, +4.4	-16, +19
[1.687, 1.856]	1.766	1.80×10^2	-4.1, +4.2	-17, +21
[1.856, 2.037]	1.941	8.96×10^1	-5.6, +5.9	-18, +22
[2.037, 2.332]	2.170	3.75×10^1	-6.8, +7.2	-19, +24
[2.332, 2.659]	2.479	9.44	-9.4, +10	-22, +27
[2.659, 3.019]	2.819	3.52	-15, +17	-25, +32
[3.019, 3.854]	3.338	3.29×10^{-1}	-31, +43	-30, +41

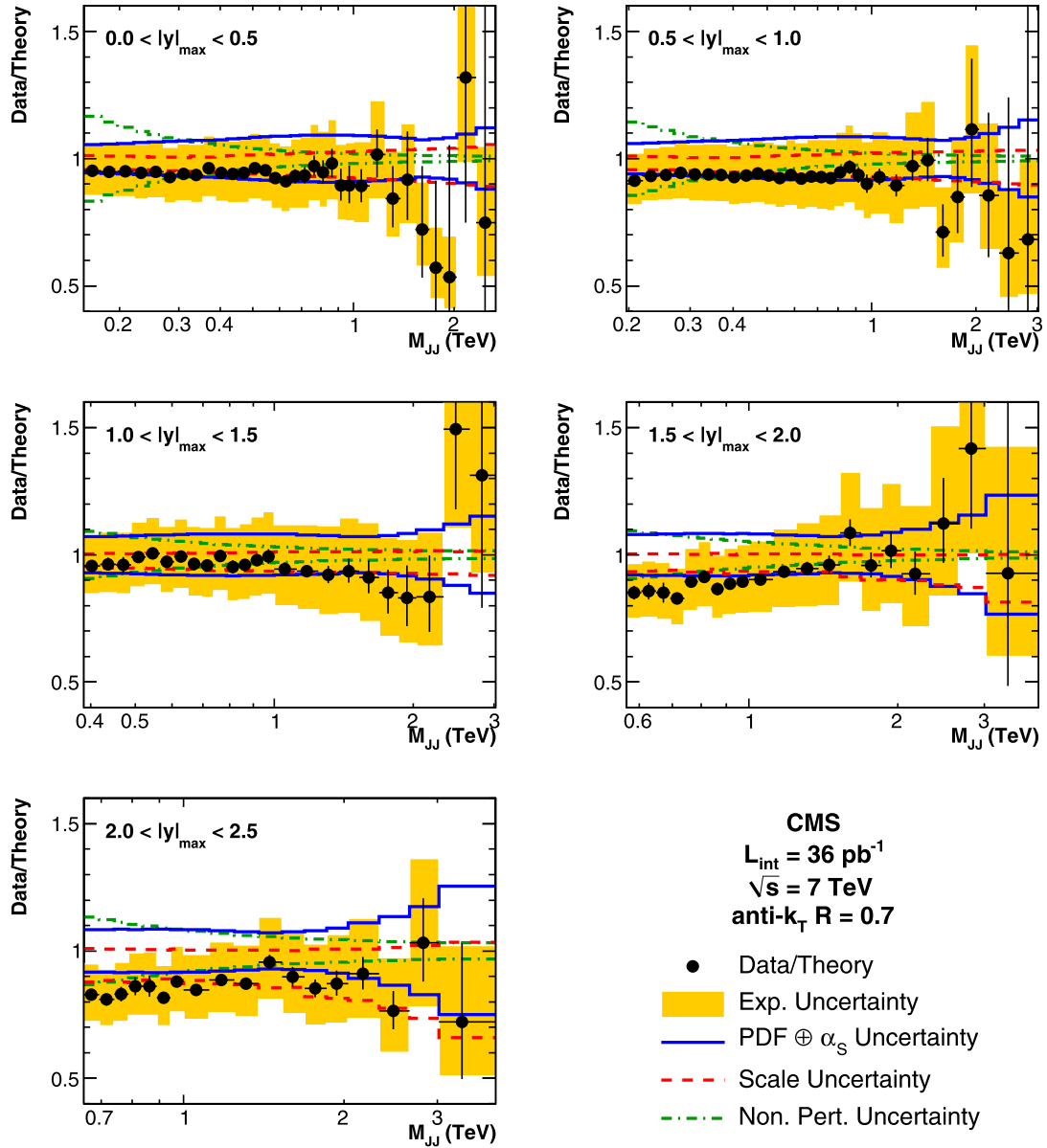


Fig. 2. Ratio of the measured double-differential dijet production cross section over the theoretical prediction in different rapidity bins. The solid band represents the total experimental systematic uncertainty due to the jet-energy scale, the integrated luminosity and the dijet-mass resolution, and is shown relative to the points. The vertical error bars on the points represent the statistical uncertainties and the horizontal ones indicate the bin width. The theoretical uncertainties due to PDF and the strong coupling constant $\alpha_s(M_Z)$ (solid blue), renormalization and factorization scales (dashed red), and non-perturbative effects (dashed-dotted green) are shown as curves around unity. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this Letter.)

using the CT10 [20], MSTW2008NLO [21] and NNPDF2.0 [22] parton distribution functions (PDF) at the corresponding three default values of the strong coupling constant $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.1180, 0.1202$ and 0.1190 , respectively, recommended by the PDF4LHC working group [23]. The central value of the NLO calculation is taken as the average of the minimum and the maximum values predicted by the envelope of the 68% confidence level uncertainty of the three PDF. The non-perturbative effects are estimated from the simulation, using the event generators PYTHIA6 (tunes D6T [24] and Z2 [25]) and HERWIG++ 2.4.2 [26]. The chosen Monte Carlo models are representative of the possible values of the non-perturbative corrections, both due to their different physics description (PYTHIA6 vs. HERWIG++) and due to the different settings within a given model (PYTHIA6 tune D6T vs. tune Z2). The non-perturbative correction is defined as the ratio of the cross section predicted with the nominal generator settings divided by the cross section predicted with the MPI and hadronisation switched off. The central value of the non-perturbative correction is calculated from the average of the three models considered, and ranges from 30% at the lowest dijet mass value in each rapidity region, to 5% at $M_{JJ} = 3$ TeV. The PDF variation introduces a 5% (30%) uncertainty on the theoretical prediction at a dijet mass of 0.2 TeV (3 TeV), while the variation of $\alpha_s(M_Z)$ by 0.002 introduces an additional 2–4% uncertainty. The renormalization and factorization scale uncertainty is estimated as the maximum deviation at the six points $(\mu_F/p_T^{\text{ave}}, \mu_R/p_T^{\text{ave}}) = (0.5, 0.5), (2, 2), (1, 0.5), (1, 2), (0.5, 1), (2, 1)$, introducing a +2% (+8%), –5% (–13%) uncertainty at $M_{JJ} = 0.2$ TeV (3 TeV) in the central rapidity bin ($|y|_{\text{max}} < 0.5$), and +2% (+5%), –10% (–32%) uncertainty at $M_{JJ} = 0.7$ TeV (3 TeV) in the outermost rapidity bin ($2.0 < |y|_{\text{max}} < 2.5$). An additional uncertainty of 15% (2%) at $M_{JJ} = 0.2$ TeV (3 TeV) is caused by the non-perturbative correction. Overall, the PDF uncertainty dominates at high masses, while the non-perturbative correction uncertainty is dominant at low masses.

Fig. 2 shows the comparison between the data and the theoretical prediction in the various bins of $|y|_{\text{max}}$. It also shows the components of the theoretical uncertainty. The agreement observed for the entire mass range and in all rapidity bins is good. The experimental uncertainty is comparable to the theoretical uncertainty and the data can be used to constrain the ingredients of the QCD calculations.

In summary, a measurement of the double-differential dijet cross section as a function of the dijet mass and $|y|_{\text{max}}$ has been presented. Using 36 pb^{-1} of data from proton–proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV collected with the CMS detector, the measurement covers the dijet-mass range from 0.2 TeV to 3.5 TeV in five rapidity bins, up to $|y|_{\text{max}} = 2.5$. The data are in good agreement with the theoretical prediction, showing that QCD accurately describes the parton–parton scattering in this kinematic region.

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(Korea); LAS (Lithuania); CINVESTAV, CONACYT, SEP, and UASLP-FAI (Mexico); PAEC (Pakistan); SCSR (Poland); FCT (Portugal); JINR (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan); MST and MAE (Russia); MSTD (Serbia); MICINN and CPAN (Spain); Swiss Funding Agencies (Switzerland); NSC (Taipei); TUBITAK and TAEK (Turkey); STFC (United Kingdom); DOE and NSF (USA).

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CMS Collaboration

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

Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia

W. Adam, T. Bergauer, M. Dragicevic, J. Erö, C. Fabjan, M. Friedl, R. Frühwirth, V.M. Ghete, J. Hammer¹, S. Häseler, M. Hoch, N. Hörmann, J. Hrubec, M. Jeitler, G. Kasieczka, W. Kiesenhofer, M. Krammer, D. Liko, I. Mikulec, M. Pernicka, H. Rohringer, R. Schöfbeck, J. Strauss, F. Teischinger, P. Wagner, W. Waltenberger, G. Walzel, E. Widl, C.-E. Wulz

Institut für Hochenergiephysik der OeAW, Wien, Austria

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

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

L. Benucci, E.A. De Wolf, X. Janssen, T. Maes, L. Mucibello, S. Ochesanu, B. Roland, R. Rougny, M. Selvaggi, H. Van Haevermaet, P. Van Mechelen, N. Van Remortel

Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium

F. Blekman, S. Blyweert, J. D'Hondt, O. Devroede, R. Gonzalez Suarez, A. Kalogeropoulos, J. Maes, M. Maes, W. Van Doninck, P. Van Mulders, G.P. Van Onsem, I. Villella

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium

O. Charaf, B. Clerbaux, G. De Lentdecker, V. Dero, A.P.R. Gay, G.H. Hammad, T. Hreus, P.E. Marage, L. Thomas, C. Vander Velde, P. Vanlaer

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium

V. Adler, A. Cimmino, S. Costantini, M. Grunewald, B. Klein, J. Lellouch, A. Marinov, J. McCartin, D. Ryckbosch, F. Thyssen, M. Tytgat, L. Vanelderen, P. Verwilligen, S. Walsh, N. Zaganidis

Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

S. Basegmez, G. Bruno, J. Caudron, L. Ceard, E. Cortina Gil, J. De Favereau De Jeneret, C. Delaere¹, D. Favart, A. Giammanco, G. Grégoire, J. Hollar, V. Lemaître, J. Liao, O. Militaru, S. Oryn, D. Pagano, A. Pin, K. Piotrkowski, N. Schul

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

N. Beliy, T. Caebergs, E. Daubie

Université de Mons, Mons, Belgium

G.A. Alves, D. De Jesus Damiao, M.E. Pol, M.H.G. Souza

Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Fisicas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

W. Carvalho, E.M. Da Costa, C. De Oliveira Martins, S. Fonseca De Souza, L. Mundim, H. Nogima, V. Oguri, W.L. Prado Da Silva, A. Santoro, S.M. Silva Do Amaral, A. Sznajder, F. Torres Da Silva De Araujo

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

F.A. Dias, T.R. Fernandez Perez Tomei, E.M. Gregores², C. Lagana, F. Marinho, P.G. Mercadante², S.F. Novaes, Sandra S. Padula

Instituto de Fisica Teorica, Universidade Estadual Paulista, Sao Paulo, Brazil

N. Darmenov¹, L. Dimitrov, V. Genchev¹, P. Iaydjiev¹, S. Piperov, M. Rodozov, S. Stoykova, G. Sultanov, V. Tcholakov, R. Trayanov, I. Vankov

Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy, Sofia, Bulgaria

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

University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria

J.G. Bian, G.M. Chen, H.S. Chen, C.H. Jiang, D. Liang, S. Liang, X. Meng, J. Tao, J. Wang, J. Wang, X. Wang, Z. Wang, H. Xiao, M. Xu, J. Zang, Z. Zhang

Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing, China

Y. Ban, S. Guo, Y. Guo, W. Li, Y. Mao, S.J. Qian, H. Teng, L. Zhang, B. Zhu, W. Zou

State Key Lab. of Nucl. Phys. and Tech., Peking University, Beijing, China

A. Cabrera, B. Gomez Moreno, A.A. Ocampo Rios, A.F. Osorio Oliveros, J.C. Sanabria

Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia

N. Godinovic, D. Lelas, K. Lelas, R. Plestina³, D. Polic, I. Puljak

Technical University of Split, Split, Croatia

Z. Antunovic, M. Dzelalija

University of Split, Split, Croatia

V. Brigljevic, S. Duric, K. Kadija, S. Morovic

Institute Rudjer Boskovic, Zagreb, Croatia

A. Attikis, M. Galanti, J. Mousa, C. Nicolaou, F. Ptochos, P.A. Razis

University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus

M. Finger, M. Finger Jr.

Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

Y. Assran⁴, S. Khalil⁵, M.A. Mahmoud⁶

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

A. Hektor, M. Kadastik, M. Müntel, M. Raidal, L. Rebane

National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia

V. Azzolini, P. Eerola, G. Fedi

Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

S. Czarlar, J. Härkönen, A. Heikkinen, V. Karimäki, R. Kinnunen, M.J. Kortelainen, T. Lampén, K. Lassila-Perini, S. Lehti, T. Lindén, P. Luukka, T. Mäenpää, E. Tuominen, J. Tuominiemi, E. Tuovinen, D. Ungaro, L. Wendland

Helsinki Institute of Physics, Helsinki, Finland

K. Banzuzi, A. Korpela, T. Tuuva

Lappeenranta University of Technology, Lappeenranta, Finland

D. Sillou

Laboratoire d'Annecy-le-Vieux de Physique des Particules, IN2P3–CNRS, Annecy-le-Vieux, France

M. Besancon, S. Choudhury, M. Dejardin, D. Denegri, B. Fabbro, J.L. Faure, F. Ferri, S. Ganjour, F.X. Gentit, A. Givernaud, P. Gras, G. Hamel de Monchenault, P. Jarry, E. Locci, J. Malcles, M. Marionneau, L. Millischer, J. Rander, A. Rosowsky, I. Shreyber, M. Titov, P. Verrecchia

DSM/IRFU, CEA/Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France

S. Baffioni, F. Beaudette, L. Benhabib, L. Bianchini, M. Bluj⁷, C. Broutin, P. Busson, C. Charlot, T. Dahms, L. Dobrzynski, S. Elgammal, R. Granier de Cassagnac, M. Haguenaue, P. Miné, C. Mironov, C. Ochando, P. Paganini, D. Sabes, R. Salerno, Y. Sirois, C. Thiebaux, B. Wyslouch⁸, A. Zabi

Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, Ecole Polytechnique, IN2P3–CNRS, Palaiseau, France

J.-L. Agram⁹, J. Andrea, D. Bloch, D. Bodin, J.-M. Brom, M. Cardaci, E.C. Chabert, C. Collard, E. Conte⁹, F. Drouhin⁹, C. Ferro, J.-C. Fontaine⁹, D. Gelé, U. Goerlach, S. Greder, P. Juillot, M. Karim⁹, A.-C. Le Bihan, Y. Mikami, P. Van Hove

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

F. Fassi, D. Mercier

Centre de Calcul de l'Institut National de Physique Nucleaire et de Physique des Particules (IN2P3), Villeurbanne, France

C. Baty, S. Beauceron, N. Beaupere, M. Bedjidian, O. Bondu, G. Boudoul, D. Boumediene, H. Brun, R. Chierici, D. Contardo, P. Depasse, H. El Mamouni, J. Fay, S. Gascon, B. Ille, T. Kurca, T. Le Grand, M. Lethuillier, L. Mirabito, S. Perries, V. Sordini, S. Tosi, Y. Tschudi, P. Verdier

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

D. Lomidze

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

G. Anagnostou, M. Edelhoff, L. Feld, N. Heracleous, O. Hindrichs, R. Jussen, K. Klein, J. Merz, N. Mohr, A. Ostapchuk, A. Perieanu, F. Raupach, J. Sammet, S. Schael, D. Sprenger, H. Weber, M. Weber, B. Wittmer

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

M. Ata, W. Bender, E. Dietz-Laursonn, M. Erdmann, J. Frangenheim, T. Hebbeker, A. Hinzmann, K. Hoepfner, T. Klimkovich, D. Klingebiel, P. Kreuzer, D. Lanske[†], C. Magass, M. Merschmeyer, A. Meyer, P. Papacz, H. Pieta, H. Reithler, S.A. Schmitz, L. Sonnenschein, J. Steggemann, D. Teyssier, M. Tonutti

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

M. Bontenackels, M. Davids, M. Duda, G. Flügge, H. Geenen, M. Giffels, W. Haj Ahmad, D. Heydhausen, T. Kress, Y. Kuessel, A. Linn, A. Nowack, L. Perchalla, O. Pooth, J. Rennefeld, P. Sauerland, A. Stahl, M. Thomas, D. Tornier, M.H. Zoeller

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

M. Aldaya Martin, W. Behrenhoff, U. Behrens, M. Bergholz¹⁰, A. Bethani, K. Borras, A. Cakir, A. Campbell, E. Castro, D. Dammann, G. Eckerlin, D. Eckstein, A. Flossdorf, G. Flucke, A. Geiser, J. Hauk, H. Jung¹, M. Kasemann, I. Katkov¹¹, P. Katsas, C. Kleinwort, H. Kluge, A. Knutsson, M. Krämer, D. Krücker, E. Kuznetsova, W. Lange, W. Lohmann¹⁰, R. Mankel, M. Marienfeld, I.-A. Melzer-Pellmann, A.B. Meyer, J. Mnich, A. Mussgiller, J. Olzem, D. Pitzl, A. Raspereza, A. Raval, M. Rosin, R. Schmidt¹⁰, T. Schoerner-Sadenius, N. Sen, A. Spiridonov, M. Stein, J. Tomaszewska, R. Walsh, C. Wissing

Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany

C. Autermann, V. Blobel, S. Bobrovskiy, J. Draeger, H. Enderle, U. Gebbert, K. Kaschube, G. Kaussen, R. Klanner, J. Lange, B. Mura, S. Naumann-Emme, F. Nowak, N. Pietsch, C. Sander, H. Schettler, P. Schleper, M. Schröder, T. Schum, J. Schwandt, H. Stadie, G. Steinbrück, J. Thomsen

University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

C. Barth, J. Bauer, V. Buege, T. Chwalek, W. De Boer, A. Dierlamm, G. Dirkes, M. Feindt, J. Gruschke, C. Hackstein, F. Hartmann, M. Heinrich, H. Held, K.H. Hoffmann, S. Honc, J.R. Komaragiri, T. Kuhr, D. Martschei, S. Mueller, Th. Müller, M. Niegel, O. Oberst, A. Oehler, J. Ott, T. Peiffer, D. Piparo, G. Quast, K. Rabbertz, F. Ratnikov, N. Ratnikova, M. Renz, C. Saout, A. Scheurer, P. Schieferdecker, F.-P. Schilling, M. Schmanau, G. Schott, H.J. Simonis, F.M. Stober, D. Troendle, J. Wagner-Kuhr, T. Weiler, M. Zeise, V. Zhukov¹¹, E.B. Ziebarth

Institut für Experimentelle Kernphysik, Karlsruhe, Germany

G. Daskalakis, T. Gerasis, K. Karafasoulis, S. Kesisoglou, A. Kyriakis, D. Loukas, I. Manolakos, A. Markou, C. Markou, C. Mavrommatis, E. Ntomari, E. Petrakou

Institute of Nuclear Physics “Demokritos”, Aghia Paraskevi, Greece

L. Gouskos, T.J. Mertzimekis, A. Panagiotou, E. Stiliaris

University of Athens, Athens, Greece

I. Evangelou, C. Foudas, P. Kokkas, N. Manthos, I. Papadopoulos, V. Patras, F.A. Triantis

University of Ioánnina, Ioánnina, Greece

A. Aranyi, G. Bencze, L. Boldizsar, C. Hajdu¹, P. Hidas, D. Horvath¹², A. Kapusi, K. Krajczar¹³, F. Sikler¹, G.I. Veres¹³, G. Vesztergombi¹³

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

N. Beni, J. Molnar, J. Palinkas, Z. Szillasi, V. Veszpremi

Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary

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

University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary

S. Bansal, S.B. Beri, V. Bhatnagar, N. Dhingra, R. Gupta, M. Jindal, M. Kaur, J.M. Kohli, M.Z. Mehta, N. Nishu, L.K. Saini, A. Sharma, A.P. Singh, J.B. Singh, S.P. Singh

Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

S. Ahuja, S. Bhattacharya, B.C. Choudhary, P. Gupta, S. Jain, S. Jain, A. Kumar, K. Ranjan, R.K. Shivpuri

University of Delhi, Delhi, India

R.K. Choudhury, D. Dutta, S. Kailas, V. Kumar, A.K. Mohanty¹, L.M. Pant, P. Shukla

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, India

T. Aziz, M. Guchait¹⁴, A. Gurtu, M. Maity¹⁵, D. Majumder, G. Majumder, K. Mazumdar, G.B. Mohanty, A. Saha, K. Sudhakar, N. Wickramage

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research – EHEP, Mumbai, India

S. Banerjee, S. Dugad, N.K. Mondal

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research – HECR, Mumbai, India

H. Arfaei, H. Bakhshiansohi¹⁶, S.M. Etesami, A. Fahim¹⁶, M. Hashemi, A. Jafari¹⁶, M. Khakzad, A. Mohammadi¹⁷, M. Mohammadi Najafabadi, S. Paktinat Mehdiabadi, B. Safarzadeh, M. Zeinali¹⁸

Institute for Research and Fundamental Sciences (IPM), Tehran, Iran

M. Abbrescia^{a,b}, L. Barbone^{a,b}, C. Calabria^{a,b}, A. Colaleo^a, D. Creanza^{a,c}, N. De Filippis^{a,c,1}, M. De Palma^{a,b}, L. Fiore^a, G. Iaselli^{a,c}, L. Lusito^{a,b}, G. Maggi^{a,c}, M. Maggi^a, N. Manna^{a,b}, B. Marangelli^{a,b}, S. My^{a,c}, S. Nuzzo^{a,b}, N. Pacifico^{a,b}, G.A. Pierro^a, A. Pompili^{a,b}, G. Pugliese^{a,c}, F. Romano^{a,c}, G. Roselli^{a,b}, G. Selvaggi^{a,b}, L. Silvestris^a, R. Trentadue^a, S. Tuppiti^{a,b}, G. Zito^a

^a INFN Sezione di Bari, Bari, Italy

^b Università di Bari, Bari, Italy

^c Politecnico di Bari, Bari, Italy

G. Abbiendi^a, A.C. Benvenuti^a, D. Bonacorsi^a, S. Braibant-Giacomelli^{a,b}, L. Brigliadori^a, P. Capiluppi^{a,b}, A. Castro^{a,b}, F.R. Cavallo^a, M. Cuffiani^{a,b}, G.M. Dallavalle^a, F. Fabbri^a, A. Fanfani^{a,b}, D. Fasanella^a, P. Giacomelli^a, M. Giunta^a, C. Grandi^a, S. Marcellini^a, G. Masetti^{a,b}, M. Meneghelli^{a,b}, A. Montanari^a, F.L. Navarria^{a,b}, F. Odorici^a, A. Perrotta^a, F. Primavera^a, A.M. Rossi^{a,b}, T. Rovelli^{a,b}, G. Siroli^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

^b Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

S. Albergo^{a,b}, G. Cappello^{a,b}, M. Chiorboli^{a,b,1}, S. Costa^{a,b}, A. Tricomi^{a,b}, C. Tuve^a

^a INFN Sezione di Catania, Catania, Italy

^b Università di Catania, Catania, Italy

G. Barbagli^a, V. Ciulli^{a,b}, C. Civinini^a, R. D'Alessandro^{a,b}, E. Focardi^{a,b}, S. Frosali^{a,b}, E. Gallo^a, S. Gonzi^{a,b}, P. Lenzi^{a,b}, M. Meschini^a, S. Paoletti^a, G. Sguazzoni^a, A. Tropiano^{a,1}

^a INFN Sezione di Firenze, Firenze, Italy

^b Università di Firenze, Firenze, Italy

L. Benussi, S. Bianco, S. Colafranceschi¹⁹, F. Fabbri, D. Piccolo

INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy

P. Fabbriatore, R. Musenich

INFN Sezione di Genova, Genova, Italy

A. Benaglia^{a,b}, F. De Guio^{a,b,1}, L. Di Matteo^{a,b}, A. Ghezzi^{a,b}, S. Malvezzi^a, A. Martelli^{a,b}, A. Massironi^{a,b}, D. Menasce^a, L. Moroni^a, M. Paganoni^{a,b}, D. Pedrini^a, S. Ragazzi^{a,b}, N. Redaelli^a, S. Sala^a, T. Tabarelli de Fatis^{a,b}, V. Tancini^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy

^b Università di Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy

S. Buontempo^a, C.A. Carrillo Montoya^{a,1}, N. Cavallo^{a,20}, A. De Cosa^{a,b}, F. Fabozzi^{a,20}, A.O.M. Iorio^{a,1}, L. Lista^a, M. Merola^{a,b}, P. Paolucci^a

^a INFN Sezione di Napoli, Napoli, Italy

^b Università di Napoli "Federico II", Napoli, Italy

P. Azzi^a, N. Bacchetta^a, P. Bellan^{a,b}, D. Bisello^{a,b}, A. Branca^a, R. Carlin^{a,b}, P. Checchia^a, M. De Mattia^{a,b}, T. Dorigo^a, U. Dosselli^a, F. Fanzago^a, F. Gasparini^{a,b}, U. Gasparini^{a,b}, S. Lacaprara^{a,21}, I. Lazzizzera^{a,c}, M. Margoni^{a,b}, M. Mazzucato^a, A.T. Meneguzzo^{a,b}, M. Nespolo^{a,1}, L. Perrozzi^{a,1}, N. Pozzobon^{a,b}, P. Ronchese^{a,b}, F. Simonetto^{a,b}, E. Torassa^a, M. Tosi^{a,b}, S. Vanini^{a,b}, P. Zotto^{a,b}, G. Zumerle^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Padova, Padova, Italy

^b Università di Padova, Padova, Italy

^c Università di Trento (Trento), Padova, Italy

P. Baesso ^{a,b}, U. Berzano ^a, S.P. Ratti ^{a,b}, C. Riccardi ^{a,b}, P. Torre ^{a,b}, P. Vitulo ^{a,b}, C. Viviani ^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Pavia, Pavia, Italy

^b Università di Pavia, Pavia, Italy

M. Biasini ^{a,b}, G.M. Bilei ^a, B. Caponeri ^{a,b}, L. Fanò ^{a,b}, P. Lariccia ^{a,b}, A. Lucaroni ^{a,b,1}, G. Mantovani ^{a,b}, M. Menichelli ^a, A. Nappi ^{a,b}, F. Romeo ^{a,b}, A. Santocchia ^{a,b}, S. Taroni ^{a,b,1}, M. Valdata ^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Perugia, Perugia, Italy

^b Università di Perugia, Perugia, Italy

P. Azzurri ^{a,c}, G. Bagliesi ^a, J. Bernardini ^{a,b}, T. Boccali ^{a,1}, G. Broccolo ^{a,c}, R. Castaldi ^a, R.T. D'Agnolo ^{a,c}, R. Dell'Orso ^a, F. Fiori ^{a,b}, L. Foà ^{a,c}, A. Giassi ^a, A. Kraan ^a, F. Ligabue ^{a,c}, T. Lomtadze ^a, L. Martini ^{a,22}, A. Messineo ^{a,b}, F. Palla ^a, G. Segneri ^a, A.T. Serban ^a, P. Spagnolo ^a, R. Tenchini ^a, G. Tonelli ^{a,b,1}, A. Venturi ^{a,1}, P.G. Verdini ^a

^a INFN Sezione di Pisa, Pisa, Italy

^b Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy

^c Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Pisa, Italy

L. Barone ^{a,b}, F. Cavallari ^a, D. Del Re ^{a,b}, E. Di Marco ^{a,b}, M. Diemoz ^a, D. Franci ^{a,b}, M. Grassi ^{a,1}, E. Longo ^{a,b}, S. Nourbakhsh ^a, G. Organtini ^{a,b}, F. Pandolfi ^{a,b,1}, R. Paramatti ^a, S. Rahatlou ^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Roma, Roma, Italy

^b Università di Roma "La Sapienza", Roma, Italy

N. Amapane ^{a,b}, R. Arcidiacono ^{a,c}, S. Argiro ^{a,b}, M. Arneodo ^{a,c}, C. Biino ^a, C. Botta ^{a,b,1}, N. Cartiglia ^a, R. Castello ^{a,b}, M. Costa ^{a,b}, N. Demaria ^a, A. Graziano ^{a,b,1}, C. Mariotti ^a, M. Marone ^{a,b}, S. Maselli ^a, E. Migliore ^{a,b}, G. Mila ^{a,b}, V. Monaco ^{a,b}, M. Musich ^{a,b}, M.M. Obertino ^{a,c}, N. Pastrone ^a, M. Pelliccioni ^{a,b}, A. Romero ^{a,b}, M. Ruspa ^{a,c}, R. Sacchi ^{a,b}, V. Sola ^{a,b}, A. Solano ^{a,b}, A. Staiano ^a, A. Vilela Pereira ^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Torino, Torino, Italy

^b Università di Torino, Torino, Italy

^c Università del Piemonte Orientale (Novara), Torino, Italy

S. Belforte ^a, F. Cossutti ^a, G. Della Ricca ^{a,b}, B. Gobbo ^a, D. Montanino ^{a,b}, A. Penzo ^a

^a INFN Sezione di Trieste, Trieste, Italy

^b Università di Trieste, Trieste, Italy

S.G. Heo, S.K. Nam

Kangwon National University, Chunchon, Republic of Korea

S. Chang, J. Chung, D.H. Kim, G.N. Kim, J.E. Kim, D.J. Kong, H. Park, S.R. Ro, D. Son, D.C. Son, T. Son

Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Republic of Korea

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

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

S. Choi, B. Hong, M.S. Jeong, M. Jo, H. Kim, J.H. Kim, T.J. Kim, K.S. Lee, D.H. Moon, S.K. Park, H.B. Rhee, E. Seo, S. Shin, K.S. Sim

Korea University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

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

University of Seoul, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Y. Choi, Y.K. Choi, J. Goh, M.S. Kim, E. Kwon, J. Lee, S. Lee, H. Seo, I. Yu

Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, Republic of Korea

M.J. Bilinskas, I. Grigelionis, M. Janulis, D. Martisiute, P. Petrov, T. Sabonis

Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania

H. Castilla-Valdez, E. De La Cruz-Burelo, R. Lopez-Fernandez, R. Magaña Villalba, A. Sánchez-Hernández, L.M. Villaseñor-Cendejas

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, J. Tam

University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

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

University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

M. Ahmad, I. Ahmed, M.I. Asghar, H.R. Hoorani, W.A. Khan, T. Khurshid, S. Qazi

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

G. Brona, M. Cwiok, W. Dominik, K. Doroba, A. Kalinowski, M. Konecki, J. Krolikowski

Institute of Experimental Physics, Faculty of Physics, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

T. Frueboes, R. Gokieli, M. Górski, M. Kazana, K. Nawrocki, K. Romanowska-Rybinska, M. Szleper, G. Wrochna, P. Zalewski

Soltan Institute for Nuclear Studies, Warsaw, Poland

N. Almeida, P. Bargassa, A. David, P. Faccioli, P.G. Ferreira Parracho, M. Gallinaro, P. Musella, A. Nayak, P.Q. Ribeiro, J. Seixas, J. Varela

Laboratório de Instrumentação e Física Experimental de Partículas, Lisboa, Portugal

I. Belotelov, P. Bunin, I. Golutvin, A. Kamenev, V. Karjavin, V. Konoplyanikov, G. Kozlov, A. Lanev, P. Moisezen, V. Palichik, V. Perelygin, S. Shmatov, V. Smirnov, A. Volodko, A. Zarubin

Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia

V. Golovtsov, Y. Ivanov, V. Kim, P. Levchenko, V. Murzin, V. Oreshkin, I. Smirnov, V. Sulimov, L. Uvarov, S. Vavilov, A. Vorobyev, A. Vorobyev

Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina (St. Petersburg), Russia

Yu. Andreev, A. Dermenev, S. Gninenko, N. Golubev, M. Kirsanov, N. Krasnikov, V. Matveev, A. Pashenkov, A. Toropin, S. Troitsky

Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia

V. Epshteyn, V. Gavrilov, V. Kaftanov[†], M. Kossov¹, A. Krokhotin, N. Lychkovskaya, V. Popov, G. Safronov, S. Semenov, V. Stolin, E. Vlasov, A. Zhokin

Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia

E. Boos, M. Dubinin²³, L. Dudko, A. Ershov, A. Gribushin, O. Kodolova, I. Lokhtin, A. Markina, S. Obraztsov, M. Perfilov, S. Petrushanko, L. Sarycheva, V. Savrin, A. Snigirev

Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia

V. Andreev, M. Azarkin, I. Dremin, M. Kirakosyan, A. Leonidov, S.V. Rusakov, A. Vinogradov

P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia

I. Azhgirey, S. Bitioukov, V. Grishin¹, V. Kachanov, D. Konstantinov, A. Korablev, V. Krychkine, V. Petrov, R. Ryutin, S. Slabospitsky, A. Sobol, L. Tourtchanovitch, S. Troshin, N. Tyurin, A. Uzunian, A. Volkov

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

P. Adzic²⁴, M. Djordjevic, D. Krpic²⁴, J. Milosevic

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

M. Aguilar-Benitez, J. Alcaraz Maestre, P. Arce, C. Battilana, E. Calvo, M. Cepeda, M. Cerrada, M. Chamizo Llatas, N. Colino, B. De La Cruz, A. Delgado Peris, C. Diez Pardos, D. Domínguez Vázquez, C. Fernandez Bedoya, J.P. Fernández Ramos, A. Ferrando, J. Flix, M.C. Fouz, P. Garcia-Abia, O. Gonzalez Lopez, S. Goy Lopez, J.M. Hernandez, M.I. Josa, G. Merino, J. Puerta Pelayo, I. Redondo, L. Romero, J. Santaolalla, M.S. Soares, C. Willmott

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

C. Albajar, G. Codispoti, J.F. de Trocóniz

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

J. Cuevas, J. Fernandez Menendez, S. Folgueras, I. Gonzalez Caballero, L. Lloret Iglesias, J.M. Vizan Garcia

Universidad de Oviedo, Oviedo, Spain

J.A. Brochero Cifuentes, I.J. Cabrillo, A. Calderon, S.H. Chuang, J. Duarte Campderros, M. Felcini²⁵, M. Fernandez, G. Gomez, J. Gonzalez Sanchez, C. Jorda, P. Lobelle Pardo, A. Lopez Virto, J. Marco, R. Marco, C. Martinez Rivero, F. Matorras, F.J. Munoz Sanchez, J. Piedra Gomez²⁶, T. Rodrigo, A.Y. Rodríguez-Marrero, A. Ruiz-Jimeno, L. Scodellaro, M. Sobron Sanudo, I. Vila, R. Vilar Cortabitarte

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

D. Abbaneo, E. Auffray, G. Auzinger, P. Baillon, A.H. Ball, D. Barney, A.J. Bell²⁷, D. Benedetti, C. Bernet³, W. Bialas, P. Bloch, A. Bocci, S. Bolognesi, M. Bona, H. Breuker, K. Bunkowski, T. Camporesi, G. Cerminara, J.A. Coarasa Perez, B. Curé, D. D'Enterria, A. De Roeck, S. Di Guida, A. Elliott-Peisert, B. Frisch, W. Funk, A. Gaddi, S. Gennai, G. Georgiou, H. Gerwig, D. Gigi, K. Gill, D. Giordano, F. Glege, R. Gomez-Reino Garrido, M. Gouzevitch, P. Govoni, S. Gowdy, L. Guiducci, M. Hansen, C. Hartl, J. Harvey, J. Hegeman, B. Hegner, H.F. Hoffmann, A. Honma, V. Innocente, P. Janot, K. Kaadze, E. Karavakis, P. Lecoq, C. Lourenço, T. Mäki, M. Malberti, L. Malgeri, M. Mannelli, L. Masetti, A. Maurisset, F. Meijers, S. Mersi, E. Meschi, R. Moser, M.U. Mozer, M. Mulders, E. Nesvold¹, M. Nguyen, T. Orimoto, L. Orsini, E. Perez, A. Petrilli, A. Pfeiffer, M. Pierini, M. Pimiä, G. Polese, A. Racz, J. Rodrigues Antunes, G. Rolandi²⁸, T. Rommerskirchen, C. Rovelli, M. Rovere, H. Sakulin, C. Schäfer, C. Schwick, I. Segoni, A. Sharma, P. Siegrist, M. Simon, P. Sphicas²⁹, M. Spiropulu²³, M. Stoye, M. Tadel, P. Tropea, A. Tsiros, P. Vichoudis, M. Voutilainen, W.D. Zeuner

CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland

W. Bertl, K. Deiters, W. Erdmann, K. Gabathuler, R. Horisberger, Q. Ingram, H.C. Kaestli, S. König, D. Kotlinski, U. Langenegger, F. Meier, D. Renker, T. Rohe, J. Sibille³⁰, A. Starodumov³¹

Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland

P. Bortignon, L. Caminada³², N. Chanon, Z. Chen, S. Cittolin, G. Dissertori, M. Dittmar, J. Eugster, K. Freudenreich, C. Grab, A. Hervé, W. Hintz, P. Lecomte, W. Lustermann, C. Marchica³², P. Martinez Ruiz del Arbol, P. Meridiani, P. Milenovic³³, F. Moortgat, C. Nägeli³², P. Nef, F. Nessi-Tedaldi, L. Pape, F. Pauss, T. Punz, A. Rizzi, F.J. Ronga, M. Rossini, L. Sala, A.K. Sanchez, M.-C. Sawley, B. Stieger, L. Tauscher[†], A. Thea, K. Theofilatos, D. Treille, C. Urscheler, R. Wallny, M. Weber, L. Wehrli, J. Weng

Institute for Particle Physics, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

E. Aguiló, C. Amsler, V. Chiochia, S. De Visscher, C. Favaro, M. Ivova Rikova, B. Millan Mejias, P. Otiougova, C. Regenfus, P. Robmann, A. Schmidt, H. Snoek

Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland

Y.H. Chang, K.H. Chen, C.M. Kuo, S.W. Li, W. Lin, Z.K. Liu, Y.J. Lu, D. Mekterovic, R. Volpe, J.H. Wu, S.S. Yu

National Central University, Chung-Li, Taiwan

P. Bartalini, P. Chang, Y.H. Chang, Y.W. Chang, Y. Chao, K.F. Chen, W.-S. Hou, Y. Hsiung, K.Y. Kao, Y.J. Lei, R.-S. Lu, J.G. Shiu, Y.M. Tzeng, M. Wang

National Taiwan University (NTU), Taipei, Taiwan

A. Adiguzel, M.N. Bakirci³⁴, S. Cerci³⁵, C. Dozen, I. Dumanoglu, E. Eskut, S. Girgis, G. Gokbulut, Y. Guler, E. Gurpinar, I. Hos, E.E. Kangal, T. Karaman, A. Kayis Topaksu, A. Nart, G. Onengut, K. Ozdemir, S. Ozturk, A. Polatoz, K. Sogut³⁶, D. Sunar Cerci³⁵, B. Tali, H. Topakli³⁴, D. Uzun, L.N. Vergili, M. Vergili, C. Zorbilmez

Cukurova University, Adana, Turkey

I.V. Akin, T. Aliev, S. Bilmis, M. Deniz, H. Gamsizkan, A.M. Guler, K. Ocalan, A. Ozpineci, M. Serin, R. Sever, U.E. Surat, E. Yildirim, M. Zeyrek

Middle East Technical University, Physics Department, Ankara, Turkey

M. Deliomeroğlu, D. Demir³⁷, E. Gülmez, B. Isildak, M. Kaya³⁸, O. Kaya³⁸, S. Ozkorucuklu³⁹, N. Sonmez⁴⁰

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey

L. Levchuk

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

F. Bostock, J.J. Brooke, T.L. Cheng, E. Clement, D. Cussans, R. Frazier, J. Goldstein, M. Grimes, M. Hansen, D. Hartley, G.P. Heath, H.F. Heath, J. Jackson, L. Kreczko, S. Metson, D.M. Newbold⁴¹, K. Nirunpong, A. Poll, S. Senkin, V.J. Smith, S. Ward

University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom

L. Basso⁴², K.W. Bell, A. Belyaev⁴², C. Brew, R.M. Brown, B. Camanzi, D.J.A. Cockerill, J.A. Coughlan, K. Harder, S. Harper, B.W. Kennedy, E. Olaiya, D. Petyt, B.C. Radburn-Smith, C.H. Shepherd-Themistocleous, I.R. Tomalin, W.J. Womersley, S.D. Worm

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom

R. Bainbridge, G. Ball, J. Ballin, R. Beuselinck, O. Buchmuller, D. Colling, N. Cripps, M. Cutajar, G. Davies, M. Della Negra, W. Ferguson, J. Fulcher, D. Futyan, A. Gilbert, A. Guneratne Bryer, G. Hall, Z. Hatherell, J. Hays, G. Iles, M. Jarvis, G. Karapostoli, L. Lyons, B.C. MacEvoy, A.-M. Magnan, J. Marrouche, B. Mathias, R. Nandi, J. Nash, A. Nikitenko³¹, A. Papageorgiou,

M. Pesaresi, K. Petridis, M. Pioppi⁴³, D.M. Raymond, S. Rogerson, N. Rompotis, A. Rose, M.J. Ryan, C. Seez, P. Sharp, A. Sparrow, A. Tapper, S. Tourneur, M. Vazquez Acosta, T. Virdee, S. Wakefield, N. Wardle, D. Wardrope, T. Whyntie

Imperial College, London, United Kingdom

M. Barrett, M. Chadwick, J.E. Cole, P.R. Hobson, A. Khan, P. Kyberd, D. Leslie, W. Martin, I.D. Reid, L. Teodorescu

Brunel University, Uxbridge, United Kingdom

K. Hatakeyama

Baylor University, Waco, USA

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

Boston University, Boston, USA

A. Avetisyan, S. Bhattacharya, J.P. Chou, D. Cutts, A. Ferapontov, U. Heintz, S. Jabeen, G. Kukartsev, G. Landsberg, M. Narain, D. Nguyen, M. Segala, T. Sinthuprasith, T. Speer, K.V. Tsang

Brown University, Providence, USA

R. Breedon, M. Calderon De La Barca Sanchez, S. Chauhan, M. Chertok, J. Conway, P.T. Cox, J. Dolen, R. Erbacher, E. Friis, W. Ko, A. Kopecky, R. Lander, H. Liu, S. Maruyama, T. Miceli, M. Nikolic, D. Pellett, J. Robles, S. Salur, T. Schwarz, M. Searle, J. Smith, M. Squires, M. Tripathi, R. Vasquez Sierra, C. Veelken

University of California, Davis, Davis, USA

V. Andreev, K. Arisaka, D. Cline, R. Cousins, A. Deisher, J. Duris, S. Erhan, C. Farrell, J. Hauser, M. Ignatenko, C. Jarvis, C. Plager, G. Rakness, P. Schlein[†], J. Tucker, V. Valuev

University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, USA

J. Babb, A. Chandra, R. Clare, J. Ellison, J.W. Gary, F. Giordano, G. Hanson, G.Y. Jeng, S.C. Kao, F. Liu, H. Liu, O.R. Long, A. Luthra, H. Nguyen, B.C. Shen[†], R. Stringer, J. Sturdy, S. Sumowidagdo, R. Wilken, S. Wimpenny

University of California, Riverside, Riverside, USA

W. Andrews, J.G. Branson, G.B. Cerati, E. Dusinberre, D. Evans, F. Golf, A. Holzner, R. Kelley, M. Lebourgeois, J. Letts, B. Mangano, S. Padhi, C. Palmer, G. Petrucciani, H. Pi, M. Pieri, R. Ranieri, M. Sani, V. Sharma, S. Simon, Y. Tu, A. Vartak, S. Wasserbaech⁴⁴, F. Würthwein, A. Yagil, J. Yoo

University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, USA

D. Barge, R. Bellan, C. Campagnari, M. D'Alfonso, T. Danielson, K. Flowers, P. Geffert, J. Incandela, C. Justus, P. Kalavase, S.A. Koay, D. Kovalskyi, V. Krutelyov, S. Lowette, N. Mccoll, V. Pavlunin, F. Rebassoo, J. Ribnik, J. Richman, R. Rossin, D. Stuart, W. To, J.R. Vlimant

University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, USA

A. Apresyan, A. Bornheim, J. Bunn, Y. Chen, M. Gataullin, Y. Ma, A. Mott, H.B. Newman, C. Rogan, K. Shin, V. Timciuc, P. Traczyk, J. Veverka, R. Wilkinson, Y. Yang, R.Y. Zhu

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA

B. Akgun, R. Carroll, T. Ferguson, Y. Iiyama, D.W. Jang, S.Y. Jun, Y.F. Liu, M. Paulini, J. Russ, H. Vogel, I. Vorobiev

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA

J.P. Cumalat, M.E. Dinardo, B.R. Drell, C.J. Edelmaier, W.T. Ford, A. Gaz, B. Heyburn, E. Luigi Lopez, U. Nauenberg, J.G. Smith, K. Stenson, K.A. Ulmer, S.R. Wagner, S.L. Zang

University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, USA

L. Agostino, J. Alexander, D. Cassel, A. Chatterjee, S. Das, N. Eggert, L.K. Gibbons, B. Heltsley, W. Hopkins, A. Khukhunaishvili, B. Kreis, G. Nicolas Kaufman, J.R. Patterson, D. Puigh, A. Ryd, E. Salvati, X. Shi, W. Sun, W.D. Teo, J. Thom, J. Thompson, J. Vaughan, Y. Weng, L. Winstrom, P. Wittich

Cornell University, Ithaca, USA

A. Biselli, G. Cirino, D. Winn

Fairfield University, Fairfield, USA

S. Abdullin, M. Albrow, J. Anderson, G. Apollinari, M. Atac, J.A. Bakken, S. Banerjee, L.A.T. Bauerdick, A. Beretvas, J. Berryhill, P.C. Bhat, I. Bloch, F. Borchering, K. Burkett, J.N. Butler, V. Chetluru, H.W.K. Cheung, F. Chlebana, S. Cihangir, W. Cooper, D.P. Eartly, V.D. Elvira, S. Esen, I. Fisk, J. Freeman, Y. Gao, E. Gottschalk, D. Green, K. Gunthoti, O. Gutsche, J. Hanlon, R.M. Harris, J. Hirschauer, B. Hooberman, H. Jensen, M. Johnson, U. Joshi, R. Khatiwada, B. Klima, K. Kousouris, S. Kunori, S. Kwan, C. Leonidopoulos, P. Limon, D. Lincoln, R. Lipton, J. Lykken, K. Maeshima, J.M. Marraffino, D. Mason, P. McBride, T. Miao, K. Mishra, S. Mrenna, Y. Musienko⁴⁵, C. Newman-Holmes, V. O'Dell, R. Pordes, O. Prokofyev, N. Saoulidou, E. Sexton-Kennedy, S. Sharma, W.J. Spalding, L. Spiegel, P. Tan, L. Taylor, S. Tkaczyk, L. Uplegger, E.W. Vaandering, R. Vidal, J. Whitmore, W. Wu, F. Yang, F. Yumiceva, J.C. Yun

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, USA

D. Acosta, P. Avery, D. Bourilkov, M. Chen, M. De Gruttola, G.P. Di Giovanni, D. Dobur, A. Drozdetskiy, R.D. Field, M. Fisher, Y. Fu, I.K. Furic, J. Gartner, B. Kim, J. Konigsberg, A. Korytov, A. Kropivnitskaya, T. Kypreos, K. Matchev, G. Mitselmakher, L. Muniz, C. Prescott, R. Remington, M. Schmitt, B. Scurlock, P. Sellers, N. Skhirtladze, M. Snowball, D. Wang, J. Yelton, M. Zakaria

University of Florida, Gainesville, USA

C. Ceron, V. Gaultney, L. Kramer, L.M. Lebolo, S. Linn, P. Markowitz, G. Martinez, D. Mesa, J.L. Rodriguez

Florida International University, Miami, USA

T. Adams, A. Askew, J. Bochenek, J. Chen, B. Diamond, S.V. Gleyzer, J. Haas, S. Hagopian, V. Hagopian, M. Jenkins, K.F. Johnson, H. Prosper, L. Quertenmont, S. Sekmen, V. Veeraraghavan

Florida State University, Tallahassee, USA

M.M. Baarmand, B. Dorney, S. Guragain, M. Hohlmann, H. Kalakhety, R. Ralich, I. Vodopiyanov

Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, USA

M.R. Adams, I.M. Anghel, L. Apanasevich, Y. Bai, V.E. Bazterra, R.R. Betts, J. Callner, R. Cavanaugh, C. Dragoiu, L. Gauthier, C.E. Gerber, D.J. Hofman, S. Khalatyan, G.J. Kunde⁴⁶, F. Lacroix, M. Malek, C. O'Brien, C. Silvestre, A. Smoron, D. Strom, N. Varelas

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

U. Akgun, E.A. Albayrak, B. Bilki, W. Clarida, F. Duru, C.K. Lae, E. McCliment, J.-P. Merlo, H. Mermerkaya⁴⁷, A. Mestvirishvili, A. Moeller, J. Nachtman, C.R. Newsom, E. Norbeck, J. Olson, Y. Onel, F. Ozok, S. Sen, J. Wetzel, T. Yetkin, K. Yi

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA

B.A. Barnett, B. Blumenfeld, A. Bonato, C. Eskew, D. Fehling, G. Giurgiu, A.V. Gritsan, Z.J. Guo, G. Hu, P. Maksimovic, S. Rappoccio, M. Swartz, N.V. Tran, A. Whitbeck

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA

P. Baringer, A. Bean, G. Benelli, O. Grachov, R.P. Kenny Iii, M. Murray, D. Noonan, S. Sanders, J.S. Wood, V. Zhukova

The University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA

A.f. Barfuss, T. Bolton, I. Chakaberia, A. Ivanov, S. Khalil, M. Makouski, Y. Maravin, S. Shrestha, I. Svintradze, Z. Wan

Kansas State University, Manhattan, USA

J. Gronberg, D. Lange, D. Wright

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, USA

A. Baden, M. Boutemour, S.C. Eno, D. Ferencek, J.A. Gomez, N.J. Hadley, R.G. Kellogg, M. Kirn, Y. Lu, A.C. Mignerey, K. Rossato, P. Rumerio, F. Santanastasio, A. Skuja, J. Temple, M.B. Tonjes, S.C. Tonwar, E. Twedt

University of Maryland, College Park, USA

B. Alver, G. Bauer, J. Bendavid, W. Busza, E. Butz, I.A. Cali, M. Chan, V. Dutta, P. Everaerts, G. Gomez Ceballos, M. Goncharov, K.A. Hahn, P. Harris, Y. Kim, M. Klute, Y.-J. Lee, W. Li, C. Loizides, P.D. Luckey, T. Ma, S. Nahn, C. Paus, D. Ralph, C. Roland, G. Roland, M. Rudolph, G.S.F. Stephans, F. Stöckli, K. Sumorok, K. Sung, E.A. Wenger, S. Xie, M. Yang, Y. Yilmaz, A.S. Yoon, M. Zanetti

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA

S.I. Cooper, P. Cushman, B. Dahmes, A. De Benedetti, P.R. Dudero, G. Franzoni, J. Haupt, K. Klapoetke, Y. Kubota, J. Mans, V. Rekovic, R. Rusack, M. Sasseville, A. Singovsky

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

L.M. Cremaldi, R. Godang, R. Kroeger, L. Perera, R. Rahmat, D.A. Sanders, D. Summers

University of Mississippi, University, USA

K. Bloom, S. Bose, J. Butt, D.R. Claes, A. Dominguez, M. Eads, J. Keller, T. Kelly, I. Kravchenko, J. Lazo-Flores, H. Malbouisson, S. Malik, G.R. Snow

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, USA

U. Baur, A. Godshalk, I. Iashvili, S. Jain, A. Kharchilava, A. Kumar, S.P. Shipkowski, K. Smith

State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, USA

G. Alverson, E. Barberis, D. Baumgartel, O. Boeriu, M. Chasco, S. Reucroft, J. Swain, D. Trocino, D. Wood, J. Zhang

Northeastern University, Boston, USA

A. Anastassov, A. Kubik, N. Odell, R.A. Ofierzynski, B. Pollack, A. Pozdnyakov, M. Schmitt, S. Stoynev, M. Velasco, S. Won

Northwestern University, Evanston, USA

L. Antonelli, D. Berry, M. Hildreth, C. Jessop, D.J. Karmgard, J. Kolb, T. Kolberg, K. Lannon, W. Luo, S. Lynch, N. Marinelli, D.M. Morse, T. Pearson, R. Ruchti, J. Slaunwhite, N. Valls, M. Wayne, J. Ziegler

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, USA

B. Bylsma, L.S. Durkin, J. Gu, C. Hill, P. Killewald, K. Kotov, T.Y. Ling, M. Rodenburg, G. Williams

The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA

N. Adam, E. Berry, P. Elmer, D. Gerbaudo, V. Halyo, P. Hebda, A. Hunt, J. Jones, E. Laird, D. Lopes Pegna, D. Marlow, T. Medvedeva, M. Mooney, J. Olsen, P. Piroué, X. Quan, H. Saka, D. Stickland, C. Tully, J.S. Werner, A. Zuranski

Princeton University, Princeton, USA

J.G. Acosta, X.T. Huang, A. Lopez, H. Mendez, S. Oliveros, J.E. Ramirez Vargas, A. Zatserklyaniy

University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, USA

E. Alagoz, V.E. Barnes, G. Bolla, L. Borrello, D. Bortoletto, A. Everett, A.F. Garfinkel, L. Gutay, Z. Hu, M. Jones, O. Koybasi, M. Kress, A.T. Laasanen, N. Leonardo, C. Liu, V. Maroussov, P. Merkel, D.H. Miller, N. Neumeister, I. Shipsey, D. Silvers, A. Svyatkovskiy, H.D. Yoo, J. Zablocki, Y. Zheng

Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA

P. Jindal, N. Parashar

Purdue University Calumet, Hammond, USA

C. Boulahouache, V. Cuplov, K.M. Ecklund, F.J.M. Geurts, B.P. Padley, R. Redjimi, J. Roberts, J. Zabel

Rice University, Houston, USA

B. Betchart, A. Bodek, Y.S. Chung, R. Covarelli, P. de Barbaro, R. Demina, Y. Eshaq, H. Flacher, A. Garcia-Bellido, P. Goldenzweig, Y. Gotra, J. Han, A. Harel, D.C. Miner, D. Orbaker, G. Petrillo, D. Vishnevskiy, M. Zielinski

University of Rochester, Rochester, USA

A. Bhatti, R. Ciesielski, L. Demortier, K. Goulios, G. Lungu, S. Malik, C. Mesropian, M. Yan

The Rockefeller University, New York, USA

O. Atramentov, A. Barker, D. Duggan, Y. Gershtein, R. Gray, E. Halkiadakis, D. Hidas, D. Hits, A. Lath, S. Panwalkar, R. Patel, A. Richards, K. Rose, S. Schnetzer, S. Somalwar, R. Stone, S. Thomas

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Piscataway, USA

G. Cerizza, M. Hollingsworth, S. Spanier, Z.C. Yang, A. York

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA

J. Asaadi, R. Eusebi, J. Gilmore, A. Gurrola, T. Kamon, V. Khotilovich, R. Montalvo, C.N. Nguyen, I. Osipenkov, Y. Pakhotin, J. Pivarski, A. Safonov, S. Sengupta, A. Tatarinov, D. Toback, M. Weinberger

Texas A&M University, College Station, USA

N. Akchurin, C. Bardak, J. Damgov, C. Jeong, K. Kovitanggoon, S.W. Lee, Y. Roh, A. Sill, I. Volobouev, R. Wigmans, E. Yazgan

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, USA

E. Appelt, E. Brownson, D. Engh, C. Florez, W. Gabella, M. Issah, W. Johns, P. Kurt, C. Maguire, A. Melo, P. Sheldon, B. Snook, S. Tuo, J. Velkovska

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA

M.W. Arenton, M. Balazs, S. Boutle, B. Cox, B. Francis, R. Hirosky, A. Ledovskoy, C. Lin, C. Neu, R. Yohay

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA

S. Gollapinni, R. Harr, P.E. Karchin, P. Lamichhane, M. Mattson, C. Milstène, A. Sakharov

Wayne State University, Detroit, USA

M. Anderson, M. Bachtis, J.N. Bellinger, D. Carlsmith, S. Dasu, J. Efron, K. Flood, L. Gray, K.S. Grogg, M. Grothe, R. Hall-Wilton, M. Herndon, P. Klabbbers, J. Klukas, A. Lanaro, C. Lazaridis, J. Leonard, R. Loveless, A. Mohapatra, F. Palmonari, D. Reeder, I. Ross, A. Savin, W.H. Smith, J. Swanson, M. Weinberg

University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA

¹ Also at CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland.

² Also at Universidade Federal do ABC, Santo Andre, Brazil.

³ Also at Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, Ecole Polytechnique, IN2P3–CNRS, Palaiseau, France.

⁴ Also at Suez Canal University, Suez, Egypt.

⁵ Also at British University, Cairo, Egypt.

⁶ Also at Fayoum University, El-Fayoum, Egypt.

⁷ Also at Soltan Institute for Nuclear Studies, Warsaw, Poland.

⁸ Also at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA.

⁹ Also at Université de Haute-Alsace, Mulhouse, France.

¹⁰ Also at Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus, Germany.

¹¹ Also at Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia.

¹² Also at Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary.

¹³ Also at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary.

¹⁴ Also at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research – HECR, Mumbai, India.

¹⁵ Also at University of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India.

¹⁶ Also at Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran.

¹⁷ Also at Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran.

¹⁸ Also at Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran.

¹⁹ Also at Facoltà Ingegneria Università di Roma “La Sapienza”, Roma, Italy.

²⁰ Also at Università della Basilicata, Potenza, Italy.

²¹ Also at Laboratori Nazionali di Legnaro dell’INFN, Legnaro, Italy.

²² Also at Università degli studi di Siena, Siena, Italy.

²³ Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA.

²⁴ Also at Faculty of Physics of University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia.

²⁵ Also at University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, USA.

²⁶ Also at University of Florida, Gainesville, USA.

²⁷ Also at Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland.

²⁸ Also at Scuola Normale e Sezione dell’INFN, Pisa, Italy.

²⁹ Also at University of Athens, Athens, Greece.

³⁰ Also at The University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA.

³¹ Also at Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia.

³² Also at Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland.

³³ Also at University of Belgrade, Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia.

³⁴ Also at Gaziosmanpasa University, Tokat, Turkey.

³⁵ Also at Adiyaman University, Adiyaman, Turkey.

³⁶ Also at Mersin University, Mersin, Turkey.

³⁷ Also at Izmir Institute of Technology, Izmir, Turkey.

³⁸ Also at Kafkas University, Kars, Turkey.

³⁹ Also at Suleyman Demirel University, Isparta, Turkey.

⁴⁰ Also at Ege University, Izmir, Turkey.

⁴¹ Also at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom.

⁴² Also at School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom.

⁴³ Also at INFN Sezione di Perugia; Università di Perugia, Perugia, Italy.

⁴⁴ Also at Utah Valley University, Orem, USA.

⁴⁵ Also at Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia.

⁴⁶ Also at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, USA.

⁴⁷ Also at Erzincan University, Erzincan, Turkey.

[†] Deceased.