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Search for a heavy gauge boson  $W'$  in the final state with an  
electron and large missing transverse energy in pp  
collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 7$  TeV

The CMS Collaboration\*

**Abstract**

A search for a heavy gauge boson  $W'$  has been conducted by the CMS experiment at the LHC in the decay channel with an electron and large transverse energy imbalance  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ , using proton-proton collision data corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $36 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ . No excess above standard model expectations is seen in the transverse mass distribution of the electron- $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  system. Assuming standard-model-like couplings and decay branching fractions, a  $W'$  boson with a mass less than  $1.36 \text{ TeV}/c^2$  is excluded at 95% confidence level.

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\*See Appendix A for the list of collaboration members



This letter describes a search for a heavy analogue of the standard model  $W$  gauge boson,  $W'$ , where the particle decays leptonically to an electron and a neutrino ( $W' \rightarrow e\nu$ ). Heavy partners of gauge bosons are predicted in many extensions to the standard model (SM), such as left-right symmetric models and supersymmetric grand unified theories [1–3]. The sensitivity to searches of new heavy bosons is usually explored using a reference model from Ref. [4], in which the  $W'$  is a copy of the  $W$  boson with the same left-handed fermionic couplings. Interactions with the SM gauge bosons are excluded, as are interactions with other heavy gauge bosons such as a  $Z'$ . Thus, the  $W'$  decay modes and branching fractions are similar to those of the  $W$  boson, with the notable exception of the  $t\bar{b}$  channel, which opens for  $W'$  masses beyond  $180 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ . The leptonic branching fraction is  $\mathcal{B}(W' \rightarrow e\nu) = 8.5\%$  for all masses considered. In searches directly comparable to this one, the CDF and D0 experiments at the Fermilab Tevatron have excluded masses below  $1.1 \text{ TeV}/c^2$  [5, 6]. Here we report the result of a  $W'$  search using  $36.1 \pm 4.0 \text{ pb}^{-1}$  of data collected between March and October 2010 in  $pp$  collisions at a center-of-mass energy of  $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$  with the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment at the CERN Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

A detailed description of the CMS detector can be found elsewhere [7]. We use a cylindrical coordinate system about the beam axis in which  $\theta$  is the polar angle with respect to the counterclockwise beam direction,  $\phi$  is the azimuthal angle, and  $\eta \equiv -\ln \tan(\theta/2)$ . The transverse energy is  $E_T \equiv E \sin \theta$ , where  $E$  is defined as energy measured by the calorimeters. The detectors used for this analysis include the pixel and silicon strip trackers. They provide coverage in the region  $|\eta| < 2.5$  and are immersed in a 3.8 T magnetic field to allow momentum determination of charged particles. The electromagnetic and hadron calorimeters are used to detect energy deposits from electrons in the range  $|\eta| < 2.5$  as well as to provide an estimate of missing transverse energy due to escaping particles. The electromagnetic calorimeter has an energy resolution of better than 0.5% for unconverted photons with transverse energies above 100 GeV. The energy resolution is 3% or better for the range of electron energies relevant for this analysis.

Signal events would be characterized by the presence of a high-energy electron and a large energy imbalance due to the undetected escaping neutrino. To acquire the data, we employ a collection of single-electron triggers with several trigger thresholds, which were changing frequently because of the evolving beam conditions during 2010. The bulk of the data were collected with a trigger requiring an electron with  $E_T^{\text{ele}} > 22 \text{ GeV}$ . An electron reconstruction algorithm optimized for high energy electrons is used. An electron is reconstructed as an energy deposit in the electromagnetic calorimeter (referred to as a “super-cluster”) with a track pointing towards it. The electron track reconstruction is based on a Gaussian sum filter algorithm [8] which takes into account bremsstrahlung emissions along the electron trajectory. Electron tracks pointing towards the transition region between the barrel and endcap detectors in the electromagnetic calorimeter are rejected. Other requirements include matching criteria in  $\eta$  and  $\phi$  between the super-cluster and the track, and the consistency of the transverse shape of the energy deposit with that expected for an electron. The electrons must have a transverse energy greater than 30 GeV, and must be isolated in a cone of radius  $\Delta R \equiv \sqrt{\Delta\eta^2 + \Delta\phi^2} < 0.3$  around the electron candidate direction, both in the tracker and in the calorimeter. These selections are designed to ensure high efficiency for electrons and a high rejection of misreconstructed electrons from multi-jet backgrounds.

To account for the energy imbalance due to the escaping neutrino, we use a particle flow technique, which reconstructs a complete list of particles in an event using all the available information [9]. Muons, electrons, photons, and charged and neutral hadrons are reconstructed individually. We denote the negative vector sum of the energy of all reconstructed particles in

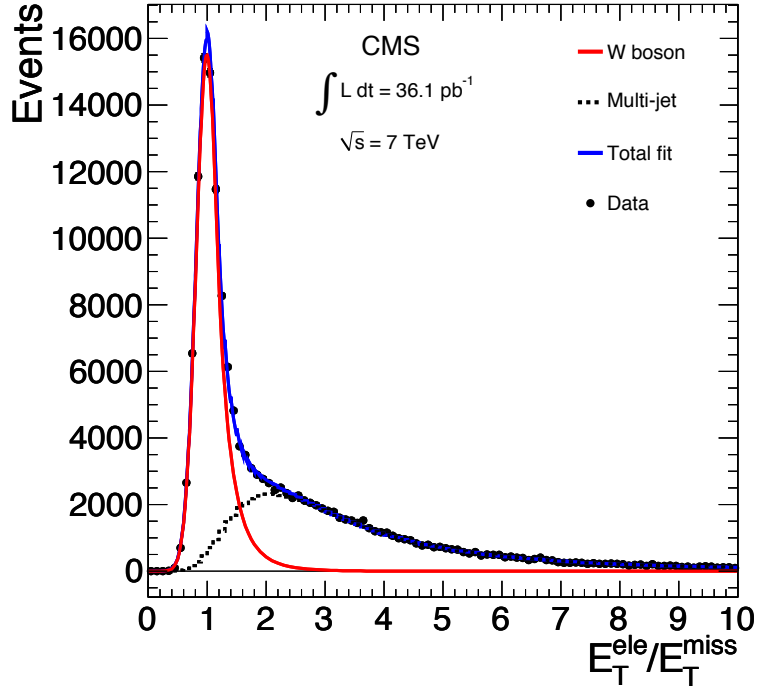


Figure 1: Distributions of the variable  $E_T^{\text{ele}}/E_T^{\text{miss}}$ . The curves show the result of a simultaneous fit of the normalizations of multi-jet and W background shapes to the data, after subtraction of the contribution of the other backgrounds.

the event projected on the transverse plane as  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ . It represents an estimate of the vector sum of the transverse momentum of all escaping neutral particles, such as neutrinos.

Since we are searching for a two-body decay which reconstructs to a high mass, the energy of the neutrino and electron are expected to be mostly balanced in the transverse plane, both in direction and in magnitude. We therefore require  $0.4 < E_T^{\text{ele}}/E_T^{\text{miss}} < 1.5$ . For the same reason, we require that the angle between the electron and the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  be close to  $\pi$  radians:  $\Delta\phi_{eE_T^{\text{miss}}} > 2.5$  rad.

The primary discriminating variable is the transverse mass  $M_T$ . The transverse mass is the equivalent of the invariant mass of a four-vector computed with only the transverse components of those four-vectors:  $M_T = \sqrt{2 \cdot E_T^{\text{ele}} \cdot E_T^{\text{miss}} \cdot (1 - \cos \Delta\phi_{eE_T^{\text{miss}}})}/c^2$ . As with a W, we expect the  $M_T$  distribution of  $W'$  events to exhibit a characteristic Jacobian edge at the value of the mass of the decaying particle. After applying these event selection criteria, the main background consists of  $W \rightarrow e\nu$  decays in the tails of the SM W mass distribution. Given the high transverse mass of a potential signal, multi-jet production constitutes a background when one jet is misreconstructed and the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  is a result of this misreconstruction. Further contributions are due to  $W \rightarrow \tau\nu$  decays where the tau-lepton subsequently decays to an electron and neutrinos. Since these electrons result from several preceding decays, their energies are rather low and do not spread much into the signal region. Electrons from semi-leptonic decays of  $t\bar{t}$  events may also constitute a background primarily at low energies. Small contributions are caused by Drell-Yan  $Z/\gamma$  production followed by decays into  $e^+e^-$  pairs where one electron is not detected, diboson production and other QCD backgrounds such as  $\gamma$ +jet. All backgrounds are summarized in Tab. 1.

Estimates of the  $M_T$  distribution for all backgrounds except for the two backgrounds,  $W \rightarrow$

Table 1: Standard model background predictions and observed event counts, as a function of minimum  $M_T$  requirement, in units of  $\text{GeV}/c^2$ . The errors include statistical and systematic uncertainties, but not the uncertainty on the luminosity normalization.

Sample	> 45	> 200	> 300	> 400	> 500	> 600
$W \rightarrow e\nu$	$75609 \pm 319$	$33.7 \pm 2.7$	$7.19 \pm 0.91$	$2.52 \pm 0.48$	$0.88 \pm 0.28$	$0.57 \pm 0.21$
Multi-jet	$7083 \pm 3546$	$6.3 \pm 3.3$	$1.64 \pm 0.93$	$0.47 \pm 0.33$	$0.23 \pm 0.20$	$0.23 \pm 0.20$
$W \rightarrow \tau\nu$	$1083 \pm 80$	$1.1 \pm 0.3$	$0.21 \pm 0.19$	$< 0.13$	$< 0.08$	$< 0.08$
$t\bar{t}$	$60 \pm 23$	$4.1 \pm 1.7$	$0.64 \pm 0.29$	$0.15 \pm 0.09$	$0.03 \pm 0.03$	$0.01 \pm 0.02$
Other bkg	$359 \pm 73$	$2.0 \pm 0.4$	$0.56 \pm 0.14$	$0.15 \pm 0.05$	$0.06 \pm 0.03$	$0.04 \pm 0.03$
Total bkg	$84194 \pm 3563$	$47.2 \pm 4.7$	$10.24 \pm 1.35$	$3.29 \pm 0.61$	$1.21 \pm 0.35$	$0.85 \pm 0.30$
Data	84468	38	8	2	0	0

$e\nu$  and multi-jet events, are obtained using Monte Carlo simulations, with a combination of PYTHIA v6.422 [10] and MADGRAPH [11] event generators. The geometric and kinematic acceptances are calculated using a GEANT-based simulation of the CMS detector [12]. The CTEQ6L1 parton distribution functions are used to model the momentum distribution of the initial-state partons [13]. For the signal sample, the PYTHIA event generator with its implementation of the reference model [4] is used at varying mass points up to  $M_{W'} = 2.0 \text{ TeV}/c^2$ . A mass-dependent  $K$ -factor of about 1.3 approximating the next-to-next-to-leading-order (NNLO) cross sections is applied [14, 15], varying between 1.26 (for  $M_{W'} = 2 \text{ TeV}/c^2$ ) and 1.32 (for  $M_{W'} = 0.6 \text{ TeV}/c^2$ ). After the final event selections, the product of geometric acceptance and efficiency for the  $W'$  signal is greater than 64%, independent of mass, for the range  $M_{W'} = 0.9 - 2.0 \text{ TeV}/c^2$ . The electron identification efficiency is measured with the tag-and-probe method [16] in data and simulation using a clean sample of  $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ . In this method one lepton candidate, called the “tag”, satisfies certain selection criteria while the other lepton candidate, called the “probe”, is required to pass specific criteria which define the particular efficiency under study. This method measured the electron identification efficiency to be about 2% lower in data than in Monte Carlo simulations and therefore a correction factor was applied to the simulation.

The  $W$  and multi-jet background estimates are derived from a combination of experimental data and Monte Carlo simulations. For the  $W \rightarrow e\nu$  backgrounds, we obtain an initial estimate of the  $M_T$  shape from simulations using the PYTHIA event generator. Differences in the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  resolution between the data and simulations are corrected using a technique based on the measurement of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  in  $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$  events [16]. The absolute normalizations of the multi-jet and  $W$  backgrounds are obtained using the  $E_T^{\text{ele}}/E_T^{\text{miss}}$  distribution. A Crystal Ball [17] function is used to describe the distribution for  $W$  bosons and an empirical shape is used for the multi-jet background, while for all other backgrounds the distributions and the normalisations are fixed to the standard model predictions. After subtraction of the latter backgrounds, a simultaneous fit to the  $E_T^{\text{ele}}/E_T^{\text{miss}}$  distribution in the data provides the multi-jet and  $W$  normalizations. Figure 1 shows the result of this fit.

Table 1 shows the resulting number of predicted background and observed events. The background estimate models the number of observed events well, including the low transverse mass region ( $M_T > 45 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ ), which contains most of the  $W$ -boson sample and provides a validation of the background model. For  $M_T > 400 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  the total expected background amounts to  $3.29 \pm 0.61$  events, out of which 75% are caused by  $W$  bosons and 15% by QCD. No  $W \rightarrow \tau\nu$  event is expected and a 68% confidence limit (C.L.) upper limit is given in Table 1. Contributions caused by  $t\bar{t}$  are extremely small as well, of the same order as other backgrounds,

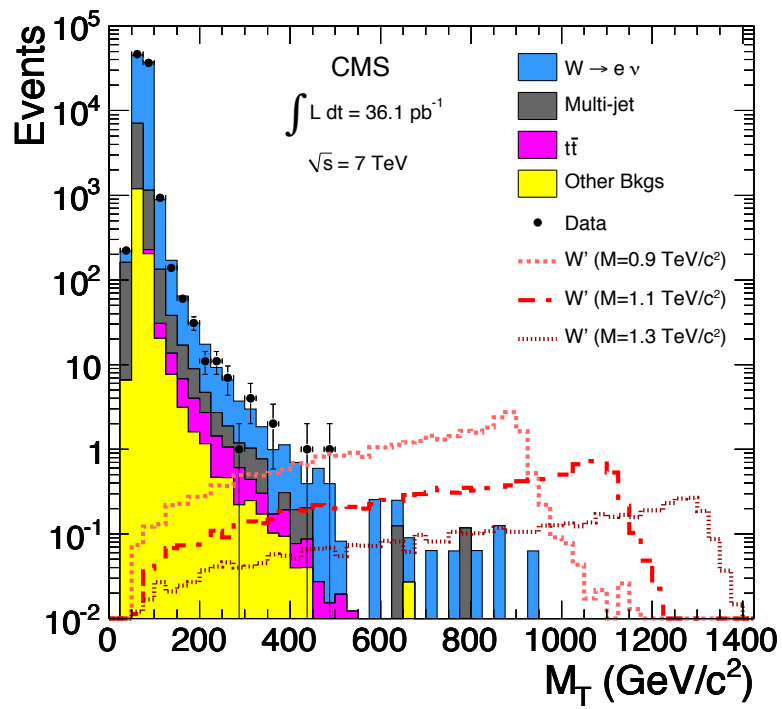


Figure 2: Transverse mass distributions for all estimated standard model backgrounds and for CMS data. Here, other backgrounds also includes  $W \rightarrow \tau \nu$ , in addition to the combined “other” backgrounds in Table 1. The hashed lines represent the expected  $M_T$  distributions for a  $W'$  signal with three different  $W'$  masses.

which include Drell-Yan, dibosons and  $\gamma$ +jets.

In evaluating the systematic uncertainties, we consider estimates of the acceptance and efficiency for reconstructing electrons (for the  $W'$  signal yield) as well as the uncertainty associated with the background. For those backgrounds that are not derived from data, an uncertainty on the absolute value of the integrated luminosity is included, taken as 11% [18], along with uncertainties on the cross sections ranging from 5% for diboson and  $Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$  to 39% for  $t\bar{t}$  [19] using the CMS measurement for the latter. With respect to electrons, reconstruction and identification efficiency uncertainties of 1.9 and 1.5%, respectively, are included for signal and backgrounds as determined in an analysis of  $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$  events. For the electron energy scale an uncertainty of 1% in the central section and 3% for electrons in the endcaps of the electromagnetic calorimeter [20] is included. For the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  resolution we assume an uncertainty of 10%, applied as an extra smearing to the reconstructed  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  in the simulation. The impact on the number of events from all backgrounds is below 1%. A similar approach is used to evaluate the impact of the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  scale. A shift of 5% is applied event by event to the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  scale and the impact on the event count for  $M_T > 200 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  is found to be smaller than 10% for all backgrounds considered. For the  $W \rightarrow e\nu$  background, the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  and its associated uncertainty are derived using the hadronic recoil correction. If we examine a region  $M_T > 200 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ , the resulting uncertainty on the predicted number of event counts is 8% for the main background  $W \rightarrow e\nu$  (dominated by the uncertainties on the shape of the  $M_T$  distribution due to the energy scale uncertainty) and 50% for the sub-dominant multi-jet background (studied by inverting the isolation requirement and analyzing the multi-jet template in bins of  $M_T$ ). The uncertainty on the number of signal events, shown in Tab. 2, is dominated by the luminosity uncertainty (11%) unlike the number of background events which is dominated by the electron and  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  scale and resolution uncertainties (in total 28.7%). The limits reported in the same table are relatively insensitive to systematic uncertainties.

With all background estimates in hand, we examine the data for evidence of non-SM events. Figure 2 shows the CMS data overlaid with background expectations. Since no excess is observed in the data beyond the SM background prediction, we set a lower bound on the mass of the  $W'$  boson in the reference model. For each mass point, we choose a minimum  $M_T$  requirement that provides the best *a priori* limit and use the  $M_T$  region above this threshold as the search window.

The resultant minimum  $M_T$  requirement ranges from 400 to 675  $\text{GeV}/c^2$  across the  $W'$  mass range and is shown in Tab. 2 along with the corresponding number of potential signal and background events. The errors include all systematic uncertainties. The number of events found in data is also shown. The highest transverse mass event we observe has  $M_T = 493 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  and is shown in Fig. 3.

We use a Bayesian technique to determine an upper limit on the cross section as a function of the  $W'$  boson mass with a C.L. of 95%, following the method described in [21]. We assume a flat prior probability distribution for the cross section. To incorporate the systematic uncertainties described above, we treat them as nuisance parameters and use a log-normal distribution to integrate over these parameters. Figure 4 shows both the expected and the observed limit. We exclude the existence of  $W'$  bosons with standard model-like couplings and branching fractions with masses up to 1.36  $\text{TeV}/c^2$  at 95% C.L.

In summary, we have performed a search for a heavy gauge boson  $W'$  in the decay channel with an electron and large transverse energy imbalance. We observe no excess over the background. A new  $W$  boson-like gauge particle with standard-model-like couplings and branching fractions up to a mass of 1.36  $\text{TeV}/c^2$  is excluded by the data, the most stringent limit to date.

Table 2: Lower  $M_T$  requirement as a function of  $W'$  mass and expected and observed data counts. The entries  $n_s, n_b$  and  $n_d$  correspond to the expected signal and background counts and the observed data counts, respectively. The cross sections  $\sigma_t, \sigma_e$  and  $\sigma_o$  correspond to the theoretical  $W'$  production cross section and the expected and observed limits, respectively. The errors include all systematic uncertainties.

$M_{W'}$ (TeV/ $c^2$ )	min $M_T$ (TeV/ $c^2$ )	$n_s$	$n_b$	$n_d$	$\sigma_t$ (pb)	$\sigma_e$ (pb)	$\sigma_o$ (pb)
0.6	0.400	$129.38 \pm 20.16$	$3.29 \pm 0.61$	2	8.290	0.379	0.289
0.7	0.500	$60.77 \pm 9.61$	$1.21 \pm 0.35$	0	4.264	0.314	0.215
0.8	0.500	$39.54 \pm 6.08$	$1.21 \pm 0.35$	0	2.426	0.274	0.188
0.9	0.500	$25.24 \pm 3.85$	$1.21 \pm 0.35$	0	1.389	0.246	0.168
1.0	0.500	$16.10 \pm 2.45$	$1.21 \pm 0.35$	0	0.838	0.232	0.159
1.1	0.500	$10.06 \pm 1.53$	$1.21 \pm 0.35$	0	0.516	0.229	0.157
1.2	0.650	$6.02 \pm 0.92$	$0.60 \pm 0.24$	0	0.334	0.215	0.170
1.3	0.675	$3.92 \pm 0.60$	$0.51 \pm 0.21$	0	0.215	0.207	0.168
1.4	0.675	$2.52 \pm 0.38$	$0.51 \pm 0.21$	0	0.136	0.203	0.164
1.5	0.675	$1.89 \pm 0.29$	$0.51 \pm 0.21$	0	0.099	0.196	0.159
2.0	0.675	$0.27 \pm 0.04$	$0.51 \pm 0.21$	0	0.014	0.206	0.167

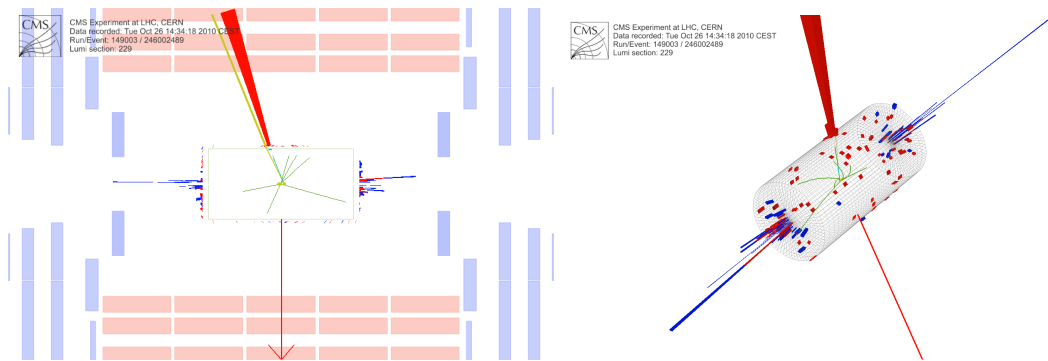


Figure 3: Displays of the highest  $M_T$  event. The projection on the left shows the envelope of the inner tracking detector along with the electromagnetic and hadron calorimeters, and part of the muon system. The 3D view on the right shows an enlarged view of the inner region. Charged particle tracks as well as the deposited energy per calorimeter cell are displayed. The electron energy and  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  are shown in red, with the amount of energy represented graphically by the length of the bar.



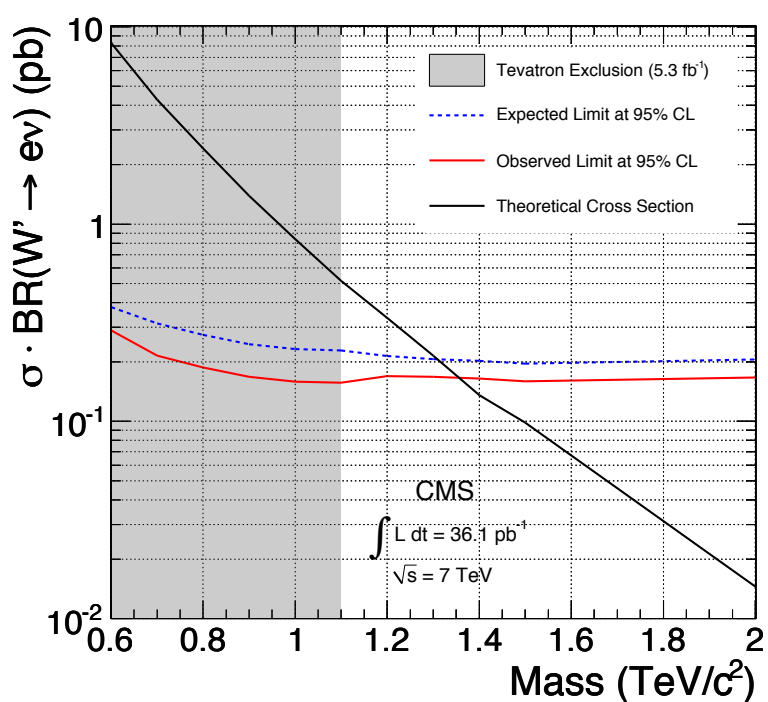


Figure 4: Limit using a Bayesian technique with a counting experiment in the search window, for the reference model. The intersection of the cross section limit curve and the theoretical cross section yields a lower limit of  $M_{W'} > 1.36 \text{ TeV}/c^2$  at 95% C.L. for the assumed  $\sigma \times \mathcal{B}(W' \rightarrow e\nu)$ .

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## **A The CMS Collaboration**

### **Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia**

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

### **Institut für Hochenergiephysik der OeAW, Wien, Austria**

W. Adam, T. Bergauer, M. Dragicevic, J. Erö, C. Fabjan, M. Friedl, R. Frühwirth, V.M. Ghete, J. Hammer<sup>1</sup>, S. Häseler, C. Hartl, 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, A. Taurok, F. Teischinger, W. Waltenberger, G. Walzel, E. Widl, C.-E. Wulz

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

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

### **Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium**

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

### **Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium**

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

### **Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, 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, J. Wickens

### **Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium**

S. Costantini, M. Grunewald, B. Klein, A. Marinov, J. Mccartin, D. Ryckbosch, F. Thyssen, M. Tytgat, L. Vanelderen, P. Verwilligen, S. Walsh, N. Zaganidis

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

S. Basegmez, G. Bruno, J. Caudron, L. Ceard, J. De Favereau De Jeneret, C. Delaere, P. Demin, D. Favart, A. Giammanco, G. Grégoire, J. Hollar, V. Lemaitre, J. Liao, O. Militaru, S. Oryn, D. Pagano, A. Pin, K. Piotrkowski, N. Schul

### **Université de Mons, Mons, Belgium**

N. Bely, T. Caebergs, E. Daubie

### **Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Fisicas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

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

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

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

F.A. Dias, M.A.F. Dias, T.R. Fernandez Perez Tomei, E. M. Gregores<sup>2</sup>, F. Marinho, S.F. Novaes, Sandra S. Padula

### **Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy, Sofia, Bulgaria**

N. Darmenov<sup>1</sup>, L. Dimitrov, V. Genchev<sup>1</sup>, P. Iaydjiev<sup>1</sup>, S. Piperov, M. Rodozov, S. Stoykova, G. Sultanov, V. Tcholakov, R. Trayanov, I. Vankov

**University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria**

M. Dyulendarova, R. Hadjiiska, V. Kozhuharov, L. Litov, E. Marinova, M. Mateev, B. Pavlov, P. Petkov

**Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing, China**

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

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

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

**Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia**

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

**Technical University of Split, Split, Croatia**

N. Godinovic, D. Lelas, K. Lelas, R. Plestina<sup>3</sup>, D. Polic, I. Puljak

**University of Split, Split, Croatia**

Z. Antunovic, M. Dzelalija

**Institute Rudjer Boskovic, Zagreb, Croatia**

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

**University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus**

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

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

Y. Assran<sup>4</sup>, M.A. Mahmoud<sup>5</sup>

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

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

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

V. Azzolini, P. Eerola

**Helsinki Institute of Physics, Helsinki, Finland**

S. Czellar, J. Härkönen, A. Heikkinen, V. Karimäki, R. Kinnunen, J. Klem, 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

**Lappeenranta University of Technology, Lappeenranta, Finland**

K. Banzuzi, A. Korpela, T. Tuuva

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

D. Sillou

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

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

S. Baffioni, F. Beaudette, L. Bianchini, M. Bluj<sup>6</sup>, C. Broutin, P. Busson, C. Charlot, T. Dahms, L. Dobrzynski, R. Granier de Cassagnac, M. Haguenaue, P. Miné, C. Mironov, C. Ochando, P. Paganini, D. Sabes, R. Salerno, Y. Sirois, C. Thiebaut, B. Wyslouch<sup>7</sup>, A. Zabi

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

J.-L. Agram<sup>8</sup>, J. Andrea, A. Besson, D. Bloch, D. Bodin, J.-M. Brom, M. Cardaci, E.C. Chabert, C. Collard, E. Conte<sup>8</sup>, F. Drouhin<sup>8</sup>, C. Ferro, J.-C. Fontaine<sup>8</sup>, D. Gelé, U. Goerlach, S. Greder, P. Juillot, M. Karim<sup>8</sup>, A.-C. Le Bihan, Y. Mikami, P. Van Hove

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

F. Fassi, D. Mercier

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

C. Baty, N. Beaupere, M. Bedjidian, O. Bondu, G. Boudoul, D. Boumediene, H. Brun, N. Chanon, R. Chierici, D. Contardo, P. Depasse, H. El Mamouni, A. Falkiewicz, 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, H. Xiao

**E. Andronikashvili Institute of Physics, Academy of Science, Tbilisi, Georgia**

V. Roinishvili

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

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

M. Ata, W. Bender, M. Erdmann, J. Frangenheim, T. Hebbeker, A. Hinzmann, K. Hoepfner, C. Hof, T. Klimkovich, D. Klingebiel, P. Kreuzer, D. Lanske<sup>†</sup>, C. Magass, G. Masetti, M. Merschmeyer, A. Meyer, P. Papacz, H. Pieta, H. Reithler, S.A. Schmitz, L. Sonnenschein, J. Steggemann, D. Teyssier

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

**Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany**

M. Aldaya Martin, W. Behrenhoff, U. Behrens, M. Bergholz<sup>9</sup>, K. Borras, A. Cakir, A. Campbell, E. Castro, D. Dammann, G. Eckerlin, D. Eckstein, A. Flossdorf, G. Flucke, A. Geiser, I. Glushkov, J. Hauk, H. Jung, M. Kasemann, I. Katkov, P. Katsas, C. Kleinwort, H. Kluge, A. Knutsson, D. Krücker, E. Kuznetsova, W. Lange, W. Lohmann<sup>9</sup>, R. Mankel, M. Marienfeld, I.-A. Melzer-Pellmann, A.B. Meyer, J. Mnich, A. Mussgiller, J. Olzem, A. Parenti, A. Raspereza, A. Raval, R. Schmidt<sup>9</sup>, T. Schoerner-Sadenius, N. Sen, M. Stein, J. Tomaszewska, D. Volyanskyy, R. Walsh, C. Wissing

**University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany**

C. Autermann, 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, A.K. Srivastava, H. Stadie, G. Steinbrück, J. Thomsen, R. Wolf

**Institut für Experimentelle Kernphysik, Karlsruhe, Germany**

C. Barth, J. Bauer, V. Buege, T. Chwalek, W. De Boer, A. Dierlamm, G. Dirkes, M. Feindt, J. Gruschke, C. Hackstein, F. Hartmann, S.M. Heindl, M. Heinrich, H. Held, K.H. Hoffmann,

S. Honc, 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, M. Renz, C. Saout, A. Scheurer, P. Schieferdecker, F.-P. Schilling, G. Schott, H.J. Simonis, F.M. Stober, D. Troendle, J. Wagner-Kuhr, M. Zeise, V. Zhukov<sup>10</sup>, E.B. Ziebarth

**Institute of Nuclear Physics "Demokritos", Aghia Paraskevi, Greece**

G. Daskalakis, T. Geralis, S. Kesisoglou, A. Kyriakis, D. Loukas, I. Manolagos, A. Markou, C. Markou, C. Mavrommatis, E. Ntomari, E. Petrakou

**University of Athens, Athens, Greece**

L. Gouskos, T.J. Mertzimekis, A. Panagiotou<sup>1</sup>

**University of Ioánnina, Ioánnina, Greece**

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

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

A. Aranyi, G. Bencze, L. Boldizsar, G. Debreczeni, C. Hajdu<sup>1</sup>, D. Horvath<sup>11</sup>, A. Kapusi, K. Krajczar<sup>12</sup>, A. Laszlo, F. Sikler, G. Vesztergombi<sup>12</sup>

**Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary**

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

**University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary**

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

**Panjab University, Chandigarh, India**

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, R. Sharma, A.P. Singh, J.B. Singh, S.P. Singh

**University of Delhi, Delhi, India**

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

**Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, India**

R.K. Choudhury, D. Dutta, S. Kailas, S.K. Kataria, A.K. Mohanty<sup>1</sup>, L.M. Pant, P. Shukla

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

T. Aziz, M. Guchait<sup>13</sup>, A. Gurtu, M. Maity<sup>14</sup>, D. Majumder, G. Majumder, K. Mazumdar, G.B. Mohanty, A. Saha, K. Sudhakar, N. Wickramage

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

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

**Institute for Studies in Theoretical Physics & Mathematics (IPM), Tehran, Iran**

H. Arfaei, H. Bakhshiansohi, S.M. Etesami, A. Fahim, M. Hashemi, A. Jafari, M. Khakzad, A. Mohammadi, M. Mohammadi Najafabadi, S. Paktinat Mehdiabadi, B. Safarzadeh, M. Zeinali

**INFN Sezione di Bari <sup>a</sup>, Università di Bari <sup>b</sup>, Politecnico di Bari <sup>c</sup>, Bari, Italy**

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

**INFN Sezione di Bologna <sup>a</sup>, Università di Bologna <sup>b</sup>, Bologna, Italy**

G. Abbiendi<sup>a</sup>, A.C. Benvenuti<sup>a</sup>, D. Bonacorsi<sup>a</sup>, S. Braibant-Giacomelli<sup>a,b</sup>, L. Brigliadori<sup>a</sup>,



P. Capiluppi<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Castro<sup>a,b</sup>, F.R. Cavallo<sup>a</sup>, M. Cuffiani<sup>a,b</sup>, G.M. Dallavalle<sup>a</sup>, F. Fabbri<sup>a</sup>, A. Fanfani<sup>a,b</sup>, D. Fasanella<sup>a</sup>, P. Giacomelli<sup>a</sup>, M. Giunta<sup>a</sup>, C. Grandi<sup>a</sup>, S. Marcellini<sup>a</sup>, M. Meneghelli<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Montanari<sup>a</sup>, F.L. Navarra<sup>a,b</sup>, F. Odorici<sup>a</sup>, A. Perrotta<sup>a</sup>, F. Primavera<sup>a</sup>, A.M. Rossi<sup>a,b</sup>, T. Rovelli<sup>a,b</sup>, G. Siroli<sup>a,b</sup>

**INFN Sezione di Catania<sup>a</sup>, Università di Catania<sup>b</sup>, Catania, Italy**

S. Albergo<sup>a,b</sup>, G. Cappello<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Chiorboli<sup>a,b,1</sup>, S. Costa<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Tricomi<sup>a,b</sup>, C. Tuve<sup>a</sup>

**INFN Sezione di Firenze<sup>a</sup>, Università di Firenze<sup>b</sup>, Firenze, Italy**

G. Barbagli<sup>a</sup>, V. Ciulli<sup>a,b</sup>, C. Civinini<sup>a</sup>, R. D'Alessandro<sup>a,b</sup>, E. Focardi<sup>a,b</sup>, S. Frosali<sup>a,b</sup>, E. Gallo<sup>a</sup>, C. Genta<sup>a</sup>, P. Lenzi<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Meschini<sup>a</sup>, S. Paoletti<sup>a</sup>, G. Sguazzoni<sup>a</sup>, A. Tropiano<sup>a,1</sup>

**INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy**

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

**INFN Sezione di Genova, Genova, Italy**

P. Fabbriatore, R. Musenich

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

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

**INFN Sezione di Napoli<sup>a</sup>, Università di Napoli "Federico II"<sup>b</sup>, Napoli, Italy**

S. Buontempo<sup>a</sup>, C.A. Carrillo Montoya<sup>a</sup>, A. Cimmino<sup>a,b</sup>, A. De Cosa<sup>a,b</sup>, M. De Gruttola<sup>a,b</sup>, F. Fabozzi<sup>a,16</sup>, A.O.M. Iorio<sup>a</sup>, L. Lista<sup>a</sup>, M. Merola<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Noli<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Paolucci<sup>a</sup>

**INFN Sezione di Padova<sup>a</sup>, Università di Padova<sup>b</sup>, Università di Trento (Trento)<sup>c</sup>, Padova, Italy**

P. Azzi<sup>a</sup>, N. Bacchetta<sup>a</sup>, P. Bellan<sup>a,b</sup>, D. Bisello<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Branca<sup>a</sup>, R. Carlin<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Checchia<sup>a</sup>, M. De Mattia<sup>a,b</sup>, T. Dorigo<sup>a</sup>, U. Dosselli<sup>a</sup>, F. Gasparini<sup>a,b</sup>, U. Gasparini<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Giubilato<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Gresele<sup>a,c</sup>, S. Lacaprara<sup>a,17</sup>, I. Lazzizzera<sup>a,c</sup>, M. Margoni<sup>a,b</sup>, G. Maron<sup>a,17</sup>, A.T. Meneguzzo<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Nespolo<sup>a</sup>, M. Passaseo<sup>a</sup>, L. Perrozzi<sup>a,1</sup>, N. Pozzobon<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Ronchese<sup>a,b</sup>, F. Simonetto<sup>a,b</sup>, E. Torassa<sup>a</sup>, M. Tosi<sup>a,b</sup>, S. Vanini<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Zotto<sup>a,b</sup>, G. Zumerle<sup>a,b</sup>

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

P. Baesso<sup>a,b</sup>, U. Berzano<sup>a</sup>, C. Riccardi<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Torre<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Vitulo<sup>a,b</sup>, C. Viviani<sup>a,b</sup>

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

M. Biasini<sup>a,b</sup>, G.M. Bilei<sup>a</sup>, B. Caponeri<sup>a,b</sup>, L. Fanò<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Lariccia<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Lucaroni<sup>a,b,1</sup>, G. Mantovani<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Menichelli<sup>a</sup>, A. Nappi<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Santocchia<sup>a,b</sup>, L. Servoli<sup>a</sup>, S. Taroni<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Valdata<sup>a,b</sup>, R. Volpe<sup>a,b,1</sup>

**INFN Sezione di Pisa<sup>a</sup>, Università di Pisa<sup>b</sup>, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa<sup>c</sup>, Pisa, Italy**

P. Azzurri<sup>a,c</sup>, G. Bagliesi<sup>a</sup>, J. Bernardini<sup>a,b</sup>, T. Boccali<sup>a,1</sup>, G. Broccolo<sup>a,c</sup>, R. Castaldi<sup>a</sup>, R.T. D'Agnolo<sup>a,c</sup>, R. Dell'Orso<sup>a</sup>, F. Fiori<sup>a,b</sup>, L. Foà<sup>a,c</sup>, A. Giassi<sup>a</sup>, A. Kraan<sup>a</sup>, F. Ligabue<sup>a,c</sup>, T. Lomtadze<sup>a</sup>, L. Martini<sup>a</sup>, A. Messineo<sup>a,b</sup>, F. Palla<sup>a</sup>, F. Palmonari<sup>a</sup>, S. Sarkar<sup>a,c</sup>, G. Segneri<sup>a</sup>, A.T. Serban<sup>a</sup>, P. Spagnolo<sup>a</sup>, R. Tenchini<sup>a</sup>, G. Tonelli<sup>a,b,1</sup>, A. Venturi<sup>a,1</sup>, P.G. Verdini<sup>a</sup>

**INFN Sezione di Roma<sup>a</sup>, Università di Roma "La Sapienza"<sup>b</sup>, Roma, Italy**

L. Barone<sup>a,b</sup>, F. Cavallari<sup>a</sup>, D. Del Re<sup>a,b</sup>, E. Di Marco<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Diemoz<sup>a</sup>, D. Franci<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Grassi<sup>a</sup>, E. Longo<sup>a,b</sup>, G. Organtini<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Palma<sup>a,b</sup>, F. Pandolfi<sup>a,b,1</sup>, R. Paramatti<sup>a</sup>, S. Rahatlou<sup>a,b</sup>

**INFN Sezione di Torino <sup>a</sup>, Università di Torino <sup>b</sup>, Università del Piemonte Orientale (Novara) <sup>c</sup>, Torino, Italy**

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

**INFN Sezione di Trieste <sup>a</sup>, Università di Trieste <sup>b</sup>, Trieste, Italy**

F. Ambroglini<sup>a,b</sup>, S. Belforte<sup>a</sup>, F. Cossutti<sup>a</sup>, G. Della Ricca<sup>a,b</sup>, B. Gobbo<sup>a</sup>, D. Montanino<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Penzo<sup>a</sup>

**Kangwon National University, Chunchon, Korea**

S.G. Heo

**Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea**

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

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

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

**Korea University, Seoul, Korea**

S. Choi, B. Hong, 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

**University of Seoul, Seoul, Korea**

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

**Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, Korea**

Y. Choi, Y.K. Choi, J. Goh, J. Lee, S. Lee, H. Seo, I. Yu

**Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania**

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

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

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

**Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico**

S. Carrillo Moreno, F. Vazquez Valencia

**Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, Puebla, Mexico**

H.A. Salazar Ibarguen

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

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

**University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand**

P. Allfrey, D. Krofcheck

**University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand**

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

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

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

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

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

**Soltan Institute for Nuclear Studies, Warsaw, Poland**

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

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

N. Almeida, A. David, P. Faccioli, P.G. Ferreira Parracho, M. Gallinaro, P. Martins, P. Musella, A. Nayak, P.Q. Ribeiro, J. Seixas, P. Silva, J. Varela<sup>1</sup>, H.K. Wöhri

**Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia**

I. Belotelov, P. Bunin, M. Finger, M. Finger Jr., I. Golutvin, A. Kamenev, V. Karjavin, G. Kozlov, A. Lanev, P. Moisenz, V. Palichik, V. Perelygin, S. Shmatov, V. Smirnov, A. Volodko, A. Zarubin

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

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

**Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia**

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

**Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia**

V. Epshteyn, V. Gavrilov, V. Kaftanov<sup>†</sup>, M. Kossov<sup>1</sup>, A. Krokhotin, N. Lychkovskaya, G. Safronov, S. Semenov, V. Stolin, E. Vlasov, A. Zhokin

**Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia**

E. Boos, M. Dubinin<sup>18</sup>, L. Dudko, A. Ershov, A. Gribushin, O. Kodolova, I. Lokhtin, S. Obraztsov, S. Petrushanko, L. Sarycheva, V. Savrin, A. Snigirev

**P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia**

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

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

I. Azhgirey, S. Bitioukov, V. Grishin<sup>1</sup>, V. Kachanov, D. Konstantinov, A. Korablev, V. Krychkin, V. Petrov, R. Ryutin, S. Slabospitsky, A. Sobol, L. Tourtchanovitch, S. Troshin, N. Tyurin, A. Uzunian, A. Volkov

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

P. Adzic<sup>19</sup>, M. Djordjevic, D. Krpic<sup>19</sup>, J. Milosevic

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

M. Aguilar-Benitez, J. Alcaraz Maestre, P. Arce, C. Battilana, E. Calvo, M. Cepeda, M. Cerrada, N. Colino, B. De La Cruz, 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, C. Willmott

**Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain**

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

**Universidad de Oviedo, Oviedo, Spain**

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

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

J.A. Brochero Cifuentes, I.J. Cabrillo, A. Calderon, M. Chamizo Llatas, S.H. Chuang, J. Duarte Campderros, M. Felcini<sup>20</sup>, 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 Gomez<sup>21</sup>, T. Rodrigo, A. Ruiz Jimeno, L. Scodellaro, M. Sobron Sanudo, I. Vila, R. Vilar Cortabitarte

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

D. Abbaneo, E. Auffray, G. Auzinger, P. Baillon, A.H. Ball, D. Barney, A.J. Bell<sup>22</sup>, D. Benedetti, C. Bernet<sup>3</sup>, W. Bialas, P. Bloch, A. Bocci, S. Bolognesi, H. Breuker, G. Brona, K. Bunkowski, T. Camporesi, E. Cano, G. Cerminara, T. Christiansen, J.A. Coarasa Perez, B. Curé, D. D'Enterria, A. De Roeck, F. Duarte Ramos, 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, J. Harvey, J. Hegeman, B. Hegner, C. Henderson, G. Hesketh, H.F. Hoffmann, A. Honma, V. Innocente, P. Janot, E. Karavakis, P. Lecoq, C. Leonidopoulos, C. Lourenço, A. Macpherson, T. Mäki, L. Malgeri, M. Mannelli, L. Masetti, F. Meijers, S. Mersi, E. Meschi, R. Moser, M.U. Mozer, M. Mulders, E. Nesvold<sup>1</sup>, M. Nguyen, T. Orimoto, L. Orsini, E. Perez, A. Petrilli, A. Pfeiffer, M. Pierini, M. Pimiä, G. Polese, A. Racz, J. Rodrigues Antunes, G. Rolandi<sup>23</sup>, T. Rommerskirchen, C. Rovelli<sup>24</sup>, M. Rovere, H. Sakulin, C. Schäfer, C. Schwick, I. Segoni, A. Sharma, P. Siegrist, M. Simon, P. Sphicas<sup>25</sup>, D. Spiga, M. Spiropulu<sup>18</sup>, F. Stöckli, M. Stoye, P. Tropea, A. Tsirou, A. Tsyganov, G.I. Veres<sup>12</sup>, P. Vichoudis, M. Voutilainen, W.D. Zeuner

**Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, 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. Sibille<sup>26</sup>, A. Starodumov<sup>27</sup>

**Institute for Particle Physics, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland**

P. Bortignon, L. Caminada<sup>28</sup>, Z. Chen, S. Cittolin, G. Dissertori, M. Dittmar, J. Eugster, K. Freudenreich, C. Grab, A. Hervé, W. Hintz, P. Lecomte, W. Lustermann, C. Marchica<sup>28</sup>, P. Martinez Ruiz del Arbol, P. Meridiani, P. Milenovic<sup>29</sup>, F. Moortgat, 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<sup>†</sup>, A. Thea, K. Theofilatos, D. Treille, C. Urscheler, R. Wallny, M. Weber, L. Wehrli, J. Weng

**Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland**

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

**National Central University, Chung-Li, Taiwan**

Y.H. Chang, K.H. Chen, W.T. Chen, S. Dutta, A. Go, C.M. Kuo, S.W. Li, W. Lin, M.H. Liu, Z.K. Liu, Y.J. Lu, J.H. Wu, S.S. Yu

**National Taiwan University (NTU), Taipei, 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

**Cukurova University, Adana, Turkey**

A. Adiguzel, M.N. Bakirci<sup>30</sup>, S. Cerci<sup>31</sup>, 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. Sogut<sup>32</sup>, B. Tali, H. Topakli<sup>30</sup>, D. Uzun, L.N. Vergili, M. Vergili, C. Zorbilmez

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

**Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey**

M. Deliomeroglu, D. Demir<sup>33</sup>, E. Gülmez, A. Halu, B. Isildak, M. Kaya<sup>34</sup>, O. Kaya<sup>34</sup>, S. Ozkorucuklu<sup>35</sup>, N. Sonmez<sup>36</sup>

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

L. Levchuk

**University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom**

P. Bell, 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, B. Huckvale, J. Jackson, L. Kreczko, S. Metson, D.M. Newbold<sup>37</sup>, K. Nirunpong, A. Poll, S. Senkin, V.J. Smith, S. Ward

**Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom**

L. Basso, K.W. Bell, A. Belyaev, 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

**Imperial College, London, United Kingdom**

R. Bainbridge, G. Ball, J. Ballin, R. Beuselinck, O. Buchmuller, D. Colling, N. Cripps, M. Cutajar, G. Davies, M. Della Negra, J. Fulcher, D. Futyan, A. Guneratne Bryer, G. Hall, Z. Hatherell, J. Hays, G. Iles, G. Karapostoli, L. Lyons, A.-M. Magnan, J. Marrouche, R. Nandi, J. Nash, A. Nikitenko<sup>27</sup>, A. Papageorgiou, M. Pesaresi, K. Petridis, M. Pioppi<sup>38</sup>, D.M. Raymond, N. Rompotis, A. Rose, M.J. Ryan, C. Seez, P. Sharp, A. Sparrow, A. Tapper, S. Tourneur, M. Vazquez Acosta, T. Virdee, S. Wakefield, D. Wardrope, T. Whyntie

**Brunel University, Uxbridge, 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

**Baylor University, Waco, USA**

K. Hatakeyama

**Boston University, Boston, USA**

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

**Brown University, Providence, 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. Speer, K.V. Tsang

**University of California, Davis, Davis, USA**

M.A. Borgia, R. Breedon, M. Calderon De La Barca Sanchez, D. Cebra, 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, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, 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<sup>†</sup>, J. Tucker, V. Valuev

**University of California, Riverside, Riverside, USA**

J. Babb, R. Clare, J. Ellison, J.W. Gary, F. Giordano, G. Hanson, G.Y. Jeng, S.C. Kao, F. Liu, H. Liu, A. Luthra, H. Nguyen, G. Pasztor<sup>39</sup>, A. Satpathy, B.C. Shen<sup>†</sup>, R. Stringer, J. Sturdy, S. Sumowidagdo, R. Wilken, S. Wimpenny

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

W. Andrews, J.G. Branson, G.B. Cerati, E. Dusingberre, D. Evans, F. Golf, A. Holzner, R. Kelley, M. Lebourgeois, J. Letts, B. Mangano, J. Muelmenstaedt, S. Padhi, C. Palmer, G. Petrucciani, H. Pi, M. Pieri, R. Ranieri, M. Sani, V. Sharma<sup>1</sup>, S. Simon, Y. Tu, A. Vartak, F. Würthwein, A. Yagil

**University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, 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

**California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA**

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

**Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA**

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

**University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, USA**

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

**Cornell University, Ithaca, USA**

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

**Fairfield University, Fairfield, USA**

A. Biselli, G. Cirino, D. Winn

**Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, 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, M. Demarteau, D.P. Eartly, V.D. Elvira, S. Esen, I. Fisk, J. Freeman, Y. Gao, E. Gottschalk, D. Green, K. Gunthoti, O. Gutsche, A. Hahn, J. Hanlon, R.M. Harris, J. Hirschauer, B. Hooberman, E. James, H. Jensen, M. Johnson, U. Joshi, R. Khatiwada, B. Kilminster, B. Klima, K. Kousouris, S. Kunori, S. Kwan, P. Limon, R. Lipton, J. Lykken, K. Maeshima, J.M. Marraffino, D. Mason, P. McBride, T. McCauley, T. Miao, K. Mishra, S. Mrenna, Y. Musienko<sup>40</sup>, C. Newman-Holmes, V. O'Dell, S. Popescu<sup>41</sup>, R. Pordes, O. Prokofyev, N. Saoulidou, E. Sexton-Kennedy, S. Sharma, A. Soha, 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

**University of Florida, Gainesville, USA**

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

**Florida International University, Miami, USA**

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

**Florida State University, Tallahassee, USA**

T. Adams, A. Askew, D. Bandurin, 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. Veeraghavan

**Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, USA**

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

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

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

**The University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA**

U. Akgun, E.A. Albayrak, B. Bilki, K. Cankocak<sup>42</sup>, W. Clarida, F. Duru, C.K. Lae, E. McCliment, J.-P. Merlo, H. Mermerkaya, 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

**Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, 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

**The University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA**

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

**Kansas State University, Manhattan, USA**

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

**Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, USA**

J. Gronberg, D. Lange, D. Wright

**University of Maryland, College Park, 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

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, 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. Stephens, K. Sumorok, K. Sung, E.A. Wenger, S. Xie, M. Yang, Y. Yilmaz, A.S. Yoon, M. Zanetti

**University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA**

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

**University of Mississippi, University, USA**

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

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, USA**

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

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

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

**Northeastern University, Boston, USA**

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

**Northwestern University, Evanston, USA**

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

**University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, 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, J. Warchol, M. Wayne, J. Ziegler

**The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA**

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

**Princeton University, Princeton, 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

**University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, USA**

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

**Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA**

E. Alagoz, V.E. Barnes, G. Bolla, L. Borrello, D. Bortoletto, A. Everett, A.F. Garfinkel, Z. Gece, L. Gutay, Z. Hu, M. Jones, O. Koybasi, 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 Calumet, Hammond, USA**

P. Jindal, N. Parashar

**Rice University, Houston, USA**

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

**University of Rochester, Rochester, 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

**The Rockefeller University, New York, USA**

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

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

**University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA**

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

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

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

**Texas Tech University, Lubbock, USA**

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

**Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA**

E. Appelt, E. Brownson, D. Engh, C. Florez, W. Gabella, W. Johns, P. Kurt, C. Maguire, A. Melo, P. Sheldon, J. Velkovska

**University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA**

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

**Wayne State University, Detroit, USA**

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

**University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA**

M. Anderson, M. Bachtis, J.N. Bellinger, D. Carlsmith, S. Dasu, J. Efron, L. Gray, K.S. Grogg, M. Grothe, R. Hall-Wilton<sup>1</sup>, M. Herndon, P. Klabbers, J. Klukas, A. Lanaro, C. Lazaridis, J. Leonard, D. Lomidze, R. Loveless, A. Mohapatra, D. Reeder, I. Ross, A. Savin, W.H. Smith, J. Swanson, M. Weinberg

†: Deceased

- 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 Fayoum University, El-Fayoum, Egypt
- 6: Also at Soltan Institute for Nuclear Studies, Warsaw, Poland
- 7: Also at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA
- 8: Also at Université de Haute-Alsace, Mulhouse, France
- 9: Also at Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus, Germany
- 10: Also at Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
- 11: Also at Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary
- 12: Also at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary
- 13: Also at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research - HECR, Mumbai, India

- 14: Also at University of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India
- 15: Also at Facoltà Ingegneria Università di Roma "La Sapienza", Roma, Italy
- 16: Also at Università della Basilicata, Potenza, Italy
- 17: Also at Laboratori Nazionali di Legnaro dell' INFN, Legnaro, Italy
- 18: Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA
- 19: Also at Faculty of Physics of University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
- 20: Also at University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, USA
- 21: Also at University of Florida, Gainesville, USA
- 22: Also at Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland
- 23: Also at Scuola Normale e Sezione dell' INFN, Pisa, Italy
- 24: Also at INFN Sezione di Roma; Università di Roma "La Sapienza", Roma, Italy
- 25: Also at University of Athens, Athens, Greece
- 26: Also at The University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA
- 27: Also at Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia
- 28: Also at Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland
- 29: Also at University of Belgrade, Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia
- 30: Also at Gaziosmanpasa University, Tokat, Turkey
- 31: Also at Adiyaman University, Adiyaman, Turkey
- 32: Also at Mersin University, Mersin, Turkey
- 33: Also at Izmir Institute of Technology, Izmir, Turkey
- 34: Also at Kafkas University, Kars, Turkey
- 35: Also at Suleyman Demirel University, Isparta, Turkey
- 36: Also at Ege University, Izmir, Turkey
- 37: Also at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
- 38: Also at INFN Sezione di Perugia; Università di Perugia, Perugia, Italy
- 39: Also at KFKI Research Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, Budapest, Hungary
- 40: Also at Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia
- 41: Also at Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering (IFIN-HH), Bucharest, Romania
- 42: Also at Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey