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Search for supersymmetry in events with opposite-sign dileptons and missing transverse energy using an artificial neural network

The CMS Collaboration[*]

Abstract

In this paper, a search for supersymmetry (SUSY) is presented in events with two opposite-sign isolated leptons in the final state, accompanied by hadronic jets and missing transverse energy. An artificial neural network is employed to discriminate possible SUSY signals from standard model background. The analysis uses a data sample collected with the CMS detector during the 2011 LHC run, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of $4.98\,\text{fb}^{-1}$ of proton-proton collisions at the center of mass energy of 7 TeV. Compared to other CMS analyses, this one uses relaxed criteria on missing transverse energy ($\not{E}_\text{T} > 40\,\text{GeV}$) and total hadronic transverse energy ($H_\text{T} > 120\,\text{GeV}$), thus probing different regions of parameter space. Agreement is found between standard model expectation and observations, yielding limits in the context of the constrained minimal supersymmetric standard model and on a set of simplified models.

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[*]See Appendix A for the list of collaboration members

1 Introduction

One of the most natural extensions of the standard model (SM) of particle physics is super-symmetry (SUSY) [1–8]. Supersymmetry allows for gauge coupling unification at the energy of 10^{16} GeV, provides a good dark matter candidate (lightest supersymmetric particle, LSP) [9], is a necessary component to explain quantum gravity in the framework of string theory, and automatically cancels the quadratic divergences in radiative corrections to the Higgs boson mass. For every particle in the standard model, SUSY introduces a super-partner, the "sparticle", with spin differing by $1/2$ unit from the SM particle. There are theoretical arguments that suggest sparticle masses could be less than ~ 1 TeV [7, 8] making the experiments at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) an ideal place for their discovery.

With the successful 2011 LHC run, an integrated luminosity of $4.98\,\text{fb}^{-1}$ in pp collisions at 7 TeV center-of-mass energy has been collected with the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment. This dataset is used to search for the presence of SUSY particles in events with two opposite-sign leptons (electrons and muons) in the final state, utilizing an artificial neural network (ANN). Two opposite-sign leptons can be produced in a SUSY cascade through the decay of neutralinos and charginos. Assuming that R-parity is conserved [10], a stable, weakly interacting LSP exists, resulting in a missing transverse energy ($\not{E}_\text{T}$) signature. The amount of missing transverse energy depends on the mass splittings among the heavier sparticles. So far, typical dilepton SUSY searches in CMS have required several jets with large transverse momentum, which correspond to large values of H_T, the scalar sum over the transverse momenta of all jets satisfying the jet selection, and large missing transverse energy to discriminate a SUSY signal from the very large SM backgrounds. Compared with previous CMS searches [11, 12], this analysis uses relaxed criteria on missing transverse energy ($\not{E}_\text{T} > 40$ GeV) and H_T ($H_\text{T} > 120$ GeV). For SUSY models that yield events with large $\not{E}_\text{T}$, the ANN's performance is comparable to the data analyses using large $\not{E}_\text{T}$ and H_T. Hence, for such models the additional power of a multivariate technique is not required to discriminate between new physics and the SM backgrounds. However, for SUSY models that yield low-$\not{E}_\text{T}$ or low-H_T signatures, the discriminating power of the ANN helps to suppress the large SM backgrounds.

The results are interpreted in the context of the constrained minimal supersymmetric standard model (CMSSM [13, 14]), and a class of simplified model scenarios (SMS) [15, 16]. For illustration purposes, the benchmark CMSSM point LM6 ($m_0 = 85$ GeV, $m_{1/2} = 400$ GeV, $\tan\beta = 10$, $A_0 = 0$ GeV) is used throughout the paper. In the class of SMS considered, gluinos are pair-produced, with one of them decaying as $\widetilde{g} \to \widetilde{\chi}_2^0 jj \to \widetilde{\chi}_1^0 \ell^+\ell^- jj$, and the other as $\widetilde{g} \to \widetilde{\chi}_1^0 jj$. Here $\widetilde{\chi}_2^0$ is the second-lightest neutralino, $\widetilde{\chi}_1^0$ is the lightest neutralino and the LSP, and $\ell = $ e, μ, or τ with equal probability. This SMS thus always leads to a pair of opposite-sign leptons in the final state, in addition to the jets and $\not{E}_\text{T}$. The SMS is fully described by the following parameters: the masses of the gluino ($m_{\widetilde{g}}$), and the LSP (m_LSP), along with the neutralino mass in the gluino decay which is set to $m_{\widetilde{\chi}_2^0} = (m_{\widetilde{g}} + m_\text{LSP})/2$.

2 CMS Detector

A detailed description of the CMS Detector can be found elsewhere [17]. A right-handed co-ordinate system is used with the origin at the nominal interaction point. The x axis points to the center of the LHC ring, the y axis is vertical and points upward, and the z axis points in the direction of the counterclockwise proton beam. The azimuthal angle ϕ is measured with respect to the x axis in the x-y plane and the polar angle θ is defined with respect to the z axis, while the pseudorapidity is defined as $\eta = -\ln[\tan(\theta/2)]$. The central feature of the CMS ap-

paratus is a superconducting solenoid, of 6 m internal diameter, that produces a magnetic field of 3.8 T. Located within the field volume are the silicon pixel and strip tracker, and the barrel and endcap calorimeters ($|\eta| < 3$), composed of a crystal electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL) and a brass and scintillator hadron calorimeter (HCAL). Calorimetry provides energy and direction measurements of electrons and hadronic jets. The detector is nearly hermetic, allowing for energy balance measurements in the plane transverse to the beam directions. Outside the field volume, in the forward region ($3 < |\eta| < 5$), there is an iron and quartz-fiber hadron calorimeter. The steel return yoke outside the solenoid is instrumented with gas-ionization detectors used to identify muons. The CMS experiment collects data using a two-level trigger system, the Level-1 (L1) hardware trigger [18] and a high-level software trigger (HLT) [19].

3   Data Samples, Trigger, and Event Selection

Data events are selected using a set of dilepton triggers, which require the presence of at least two leptons, either two muons or two electrons or a muon-electron pair. In the case of the double-muon trigger, the selection is asymmetric with a transverse momentum (p_T) threshold of 13 GeV for the leading (higher-p_T) muon and 8 GeV for the subleading one. In the case of the double-electron trigger, the selection is asymmetric with a threshold applied to the transverse energy of a cluster in the ECAL. The thresholds are fixed to 17 GeV (8 GeV) for the leading (subleading) electron energy. For the muon-electron trigger, the threshold on the transverse momentum, p_T (transverse energy, E_T) is 8 GeV (17 GeV) for the muon (electron). For all triggers, additional identification and isolation criteria are also applied.

Muon candidates are reconstructed [20] by combining the information from the inner tracking system, the calorimeters, and the muon system. Electron candidates are reconstructed [21] by combining the information from the ECAL with the silicon tracker, using shower shape and track-ECAL-cluster matching variables in order to increase the sample purity. Jets are reconstructed using the anti-k_T clustering algorithm [22] with a distance parameter $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\phi)^2 + (\Delta\eta)^2} = 0.5$. The inputs to the jet clustering algorithm are the four-momentum vectors of reconstructed particles. Each such particle is reconstructed with the particle-flow technique [23] which combines information from several subdetectors. The measured jet transverse momenta are corrected with scale factors derived from simulation; to correct for any differences in the energy response between simulation and data, a residual correction factor derived from the latter is applied to jets in the data [24]. In general, $\not{E}_T \equiv -|\sum \vec{p}_T|$, where the sum is taken over all final-state particles reconstructed in the CMS detector. The total transverse energy ($\sum E_T$) of the event is calculated as the scalar sum of the transverse energies of leptons and jets. The total hadronic transverse energy, ($H_T \equiv |\sum \vec{p}_T|$), is computed as the scalar sum of the transverse energies of all reconstructed jets in the event satisfying the jet selection criteria described below.

Simulated pp collision events are produced with the PYTHIA 6.4.22 [25] generator (using underlying event tune Z2 which is identical to the Z1 tune [26] except that Z2 uses the CTEQ6L parton distribution functions (PDF) while Z1 uses CTEQ5L) for QCD, WW, ZZ and WZ samples. For $t\bar{t}$, Drell–Yan, and W + jets samples the MADGRAPH 4.4.24 [27] generator is used. Events are then processed with a simulation of the CMS detector response based on GEANT4 [28]. Multiple proton-proton interactions are superimposed on the hard collision, and all simulated event samples are reweighted according to the distribution of the number of reconstructed primary vertices in data. Simulated events are reconstructed and analyzed in the same way as data events. Simulated event samples are used to train the ANN, to extrapolate background estimates from a background-enriched control region in data to the expected signal-enriched

region, and to estimate systematic uncertainties.

Non-collision backgrounds are removed by applying quality requirements ensuring the presence of at least one reconstructed primary vertex [29]. Events are required to have at least two opposite-sign leptons, both electrons or muons, or an electron-muon pair, with $p_T > 20\,\text{GeV}$ and $|\eta| < 2.4$, and at least two jets with $p_T > 30\,\text{GeV}$ and $|\eta| < 2.4$. Jets are required to satisfy the quality criteria described in Ref. [30]. Leptons are required to be isolated from significant energy deposits and tracks in a cone of radius $\Delta R = 0.3$ around the direction of the lepton. The relative combined isolation, defined as $I_{\text{rel}}^{\text{comb}} = (\sum_{\text{tracks}} p_T + \sum_{\text{ECAL}} E_T + \sum_{\text{HCAL}} E_T)/p_T$, is required to be <0.2 for muons and <0.08 for electrons, with the latter criterion being more strict in order to reject jets misidentified as electrons.

4 Signal to Background Discrimination

The ANN in this analysis is used to separate SUSY signals from SM background events, exploiting correlations among the discriminating variables, and thus providing improved results with respect to the use of sequential selections. Due to the presence of isolated leptons, the main SM background contributions to this analysis involve the production of $t\bar{t}$, and $Z + \text{jets}$. The QCD multijet processes with two misidentified (fake) leptons, and $W + \text{jets}$ events with one misidentified lepton can also be part of the background, but are significantly reduced by applying additional candidate event selection criteria described below. Finally, two leptons in the final state could be produced by WW, WZ or ZZ decays but their contributions are found in simulation to be negligible compared to the main backgrounds.

The candidate event selection criteria, which are imposed before the ANN training, are the following: events are required to have $\not{E}_T > 30\,\text{GeV}$, the distance ΔR between either of the two leading opposite-sign leptons and the closest jet is required to be >0.2, and the dilepton mass $M_{\ell\ell}$, formed from the two leading opposite-sign leptons, is required to be larger than $10\,\text{GeV}$. These criteria reject the vast majority of the background, while retaining most of the signal as shown in Table 1 for CMSSM benchmark point LM6. This greatly facilitates the ANN training and optimization by excluding a region heavily dominated by background in which few if any signal events are present. The signal region is defined by the candidate event selection criteria with an additional requirement on the ratio of the dilepton transverse energy $\sum E_T^{\text{lepton}}$ to the total transverse energy (as defined in Section 3) to be less than 0.4.

Table 1: Expected number of signal and background (bkg.) events after the event selection criteria, and after the candidate event selection criteria for events in the signal region are applied. The next-leading-order (NLO) cross section is used for the CMSSM benchmark point LM6 yield determination. The dataset resulting from the candidate event selection is used as input to the ANN. The uncertainties quoted are statistical only.

Sample	Event Selection	Signal Region
$t\bar{t}$	17395 ± 60	8271 ± 40
$Z + \text{jets}$	507316 ± 1200	4740 ± 60
$W + \text{jets}$	21094 ± 740	416 ± 40
WW	1204 ± 10	15 ± 1
WZ	1750 ± 8	20 ± 1
ZZ	1225 ± 4	13 ± 1
QCD	19578 ± 7500	1313 ± 260
Total SM Bkg.	569562 ± 7700	14797 ± 280
LM6	71 ± 1	54 ± 1

The ANN training samples are based on simulated events. A mixture of $t\bar{t}$, $Z + \text{jets}$, $W + \text{jets}$, and QCD simulated samples are used as the SM background. For the signal, a class of SMS scenarios [15] is used. For the ANN training grid points close to the diagonal ($m_{\tilde{g}} = m_{\text{LSP}}$) are used with $|m_{\tilde{g}} - m_{\text{LSP}}| < 400\,\text{GeV}$. These points are chosen since they exhibit low $E\!\!\!/_T$ or H_T thresholds: more than 90% of the events have $E\!\!\!/_T < 200\,\text{GeV}$ or $H_T < 600\,\text{GeV}$.

Several topological and kinematical variables are considered according to their potential to discriminate SM backgrounds from possible SUSY signals, taking into account the correlations among them. The variables studied are based on the general production and decay characteristics of many supersymmetric processes and are not tuned to a specific model.

Using different combinations of candidate input variables, several ANNs are constructed and compared in order to select the optimal configuration. The differences in performance are studied and quantified in terms of the signal selection efficiency as a function of background rejection. A network with seven input variables, those with the smallest degree of correlation among themselves and with the highest discriminating power, shows the best performance. The ANN variable importance is defined as sum of the weights-squared of the connections between the variable's neuron in the input layer and the ones in the first hidden layer. Table 2 lists the seven input ANN variables along with their description, and their relative importance after the ANN training.

Table 2: Seven event, lepton and jet related variables used for the ANN construction. The transverse mass M_T is defined as $\sqrt{(\sum E_T)^2 - (\sum \vec{p}_T)^2}$, where $\sum E_T$ and $\sum \vec{p}_T$ represent the scalar and vector sums over the transverse momenta of all reconstructed jets and leptons.

Variable	Description	ANN weight (%)
$E\!\!\!/_T$	Missing transverse energy	22
$M_{\ell\ell}$	Dilepton mass	20
$\frac{\sum E_T^{\text{lepton}}}{\sum E_T}$	Ratio of the energy of the dilepton system to total transverse energy	18
N_{jets}	Number of jets	13
Jet2 p_T	Subleading jet p_T	12
M_T	Transverse mass	8
Jet1 p_T	Leading jet p_T	7

5   ANN Output for SM Background

In order to quantify the level of agreement and the significance of a possible excess between data and SM expectation, it is important to provide a robust estimate of the ANN output distribution in the signal region under the SM-only hypothesis along with its systematic uncertainty.

The approach used to estimate the ANN prediction for the SM-only hypothesis from data is as follows. A signal region (SR) is defined by the set of the candidate event selection requirements and the additional criterion on the fraction of transverse energy carried by the dilepton system as described in Section 3. A primary control region (CR) is defined by inverting two of the signal event selection criteria, the total missing transverse energy and the selection cut on the fraction of transverse energy carried by the dilepton system. This region is chosen so that it is dominated by SM processes. Signal contamination in the primary control region is small: for the LM6 benchmark point it is less than 0.03%, and less than 0.4% for SMS points close to the diagonal ($m_{\tilde{g}} = m_{\text{LSP}}$). The ANN output distribution in the primary control region is then obtained using data $\text{ANN(SM)}_{\text{CR}}^{\text{data}}$.

Next, an extrapolation ratio, $R_{\mathrm{Ext.}} = \frac{\mathrm{ANN(SM)}^{\mathrm{MC}}_{\mathrm{SR}}}{\mathrm{ANN(SM)}^{\mathrm{MC}}_{\mathrm{CR}}}$ obtained from simulated events, is defined for each bin in the ANN output distribution as the ANN output for the SM-only hypothesis in the signal region divided by the ANN output for the SM-only hypothesis in the control region. The extrapolation factor, R_{ext}, exhibits a smooth monotonic behavior, as shown in Fig. 1.
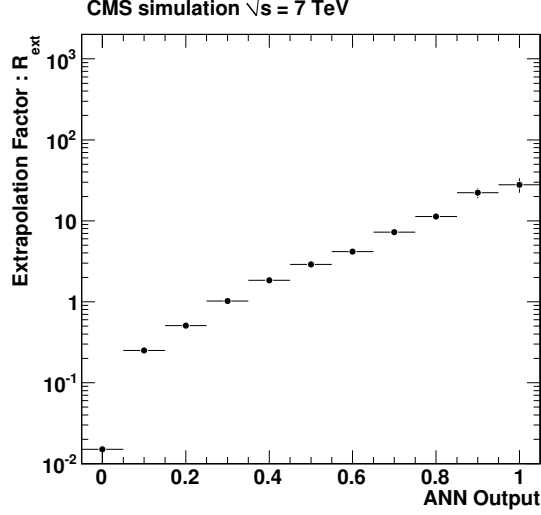

Figure 1: Extrapolation factor R_{ext}, as obtained from simulated events.

Finally, the ANN output from data in the control region, where only SM physics is assumed to be present, is multiplied by the extrapolation factor, R_{ext}, to predict the ANN output SM in the signal region, $\mathrm{ANN(SM)}^{\mathrm{prediction}}_{\mathrm{SR}}$:

$$\mathrm{ANN(SM)}^{\mathrm{prediction}}_{\mathrm{SR}} = \mathrm{ANN(SM)}^{\mathrm{data}}_{\mathrm{CR}} \times \frac{\mathrm{ANN(SM)}^{\mathrm{MC}}_{\mathrm{SR}}}{\mathrm{ANN(SM)}^{\mathrm{MC}}_{\mathrm{CR}}}. \tag{1}$$

The primary control region is further subdivided into a $t\bar{t}$ enriched one with $\not{E}_{\mathrm{T}} > 30\,\mathrm{GeV}$ and $M_{\ell\ell} \notin [75, 105]\,\mathrm{GeV}$, denoted as "control region A", and separately into a $Z + \mathrm{jets}$ enriched one with $\not{E}_{\mathrm{T}} < 30\,\mathrm{GeV}$ or $75\,\mathrm{GeV} < M_{\ell\ell} < 105\,\mathrm{GeV}$, denoted as "control region B". These are not used in the analysis. However they provide quality control cross-checks (level of agreement between data and simulation) for the two main backgrounds that affect the analysis.

Figure 2 compares the ANN output distributions of data and simulated events in the control regions as defined above. Agreement between data and simulation is observed both in the primary control region used to define the ANN output, as well as in the $t\bar{t}$ and $Z + \mathrm{jets}$ dominated control regions "A" and "B".

Similar agreement between data and simulation for the ANN input variables in the control region is observed as well. This helps to confirm that the simulation is appropriate to train the ANN and adequate to be used for the estimation of systematic uncertainties.

6 Systematic Uncertainties

Systematic uncertainties of the ANN output prediction for the SM-only hypothesis, obtained as described in Section 5, are estimated with simulated data using the following procedure. A systematic effect is introduced into the simulated data for all events in the sample before
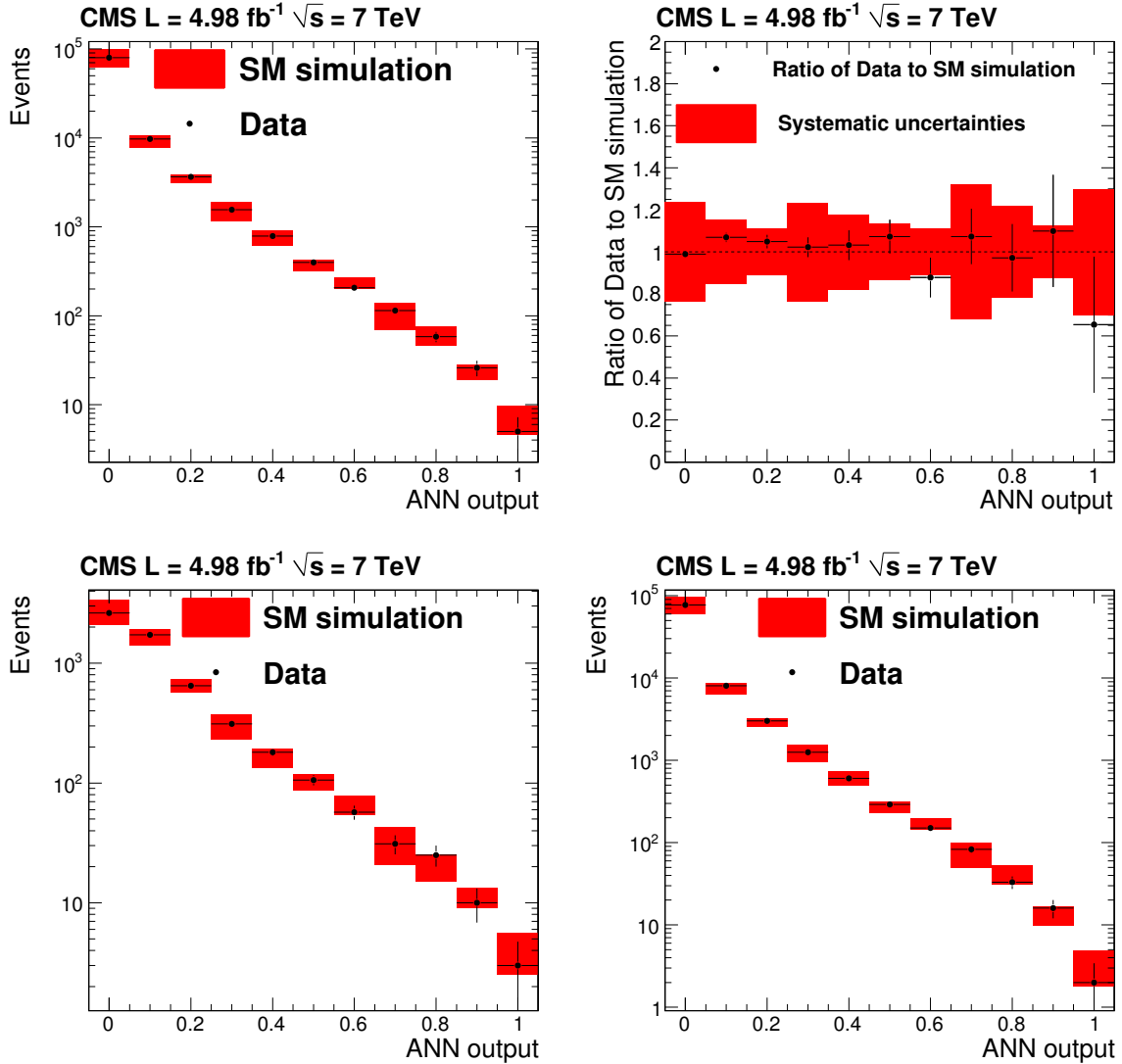
Figure 2: Data (black points with error bars) vs. simulated events (red bands) comparison of the ANN output distributions in the various control regions. Top: The ANN output in the control region used to perform the extrapolation with systematic uncertainties included (left), and the ratio between data and simulated events (right) with both statistical (black error bars) and systematic (red bands) uncertainties shown. Bottom: The main control region is subdivided into the following two to perform cross-checks: $t\bar{t}$ enriched control region A (left), $Z +$ jet enriched control region B (right) with systematic uncertainties included.

any preselection is applied. The nominal SM extrapolation factor R_{ext} is then used to obtain a new ANN output prediction for the signal region corresponding to the systematic effect under study. Next, the ANN output prediction, corresponding to the systematic alteration, is compared against the ANN output for the original sample, without any systematic effects introduced. A binned ANN output distribution is studied for this analysis. The relative difference in ANN outputs for each bin, is assigned as a bin-by-bin systematic uncertainty. Similarly, the relative difference in the integrated number of events above a certain ANN output is assigned as a systematic uncertainty to the number of signal-like events. Finally, for each bin, the relative differences for all systematic effects studied are added in quadrature. This results in a bin-by-bin total systematic uncertainty in the ANN output prediction. In a similar manner the relative differences in the integrated number of events above some ANN value are added in quadrature yielding the total systematic uncertainty on the number of signal-like events.

The overall systematic uncertainties corresponding to the seven input variables used for the ANN construction, as well as the uncertainties in the cross sections of the SM backgrounds, are shown in Table 3 for the ANN optimal selection.

Table 3: Systematic uncertainties considered in the predicted background, along with their magnitude, and the impact they have on the final ANN output prediction when the signal selection requirement at 0.95 is applied.

Quantity	Syst. uncertainty	Syst. error (%) on the SM prediction
Missing transverse energy $\not{E}_{\text{T}}$	$\pm 10\%$	26
Leading, subleading jet p_{T}	$\pm 3\%$	10
$\frac{\sum E_{\text{T}}^{\text{lepton}}}{\sum E_{\text{T}}}$	$\pm 2\%$	9
Transverse mass M_{T}	$\pm 5\%$	6
Dilepton mass $M_{\ell\ell}$	$\pm 1\%$	1
Number of jets N_{jets}	$\pm 0.5\%$	<1
$t\bar{t}$ cross section	$\pm 4\%$	<1
QCD, W + jets, Z + jets cross sections	$\pm 50\%, \pm 3\%, \pm 3\%$	<1
Total		30

The magnitude of the systematic alterations for the jet energy scale is taken from dedicated CMS measurements [31]. While the clustered energy scale of $\not{E}_{\text{T}}$ is known to the 3% level in CMS and the unclustered energy scale for $\not{E}_{\text{T}}$ is known to within 10% [32], this analysis uses a conservative 10% for the overall $\not{E}_{\text{T}}$ systematic uncertainty.

For the input ANN variables for which there is no dedicated CMS measurement, the level of agreement between data and simulation in the control region is used to obtain an estimate of the systematic uncertainty. Therefore, the control region is used to constrain the systematic uncertainties in these cases. Given the above, the difference between data and simulation for the migration of events from the one-jet to the two-jet bin is estimated to be 0.5%. Similarly, the systematic uncertainty on the ratio of the lepton to the total transverse energy is estimated to be 2%, and the M_{T} uncertainty is estimated to be 5%. The dilepton mass scale uncertainty of 1% is taken from the CMS measurements of the Z peak [33].

The relative fraction of $t\bar{t}$ and Z + jets backgrounds is observed to vary as a function of the ANN output, as well as across the signal and control regions. In order to account for any remaining differences, the cross sections of all background components are left to vary within their uncertainties, taken from the recent CMS measurements for the $t\bar{t}$ [34] cross section, and using a conservative 50% uncertainty on the QCD cross section. The Z + jet cross section uncertainty ($<3\%$) [33], and the W + jet cross section uncertainty $<3\%$) [33] produce a negligible systematic effect on the ANN output.

The systematic uncertainties associated with the signal acceptance and efficiency (ANN selection), along with their magnitude, are summarized in Table 4. The uncertainty on the lep-

Table 4: Systematic uncertainties on signal acceptance and efficiency.

Source of systematic	Uncertainty
Lepton triggers ($p_T > 20\,\text{GeV}$)	3%
Lepton isolation	5%
Integrated luminosity	2.2%
ANN selection	17%
Total	18%

ton triggers and the lepton isolation are the same as the ones estimated in Ref. [35]. The relative ANN uncertainty for the signal is lower than the corresponding uncertainty for the background, due mainly to the different ANN shapes for these two populations (signal and background).

7   Performance of the ANN

The ANN output after the training is shown in Fig. 3 for the signal (blue) and SM background (red) samples; the efficiency and purity of the selected samples are also shown as a function of the ANN output requirement.

Figure 3: Left: The ANN output for the SM background (red bands) and SMS low $\not{E}_T$-low H_T events (blue line). Right: Efficiency (red) and purity (blue) vs. the minimum ANN output value for SMS low $\not{E}_T$-low H_T events in the signal region.

When statistical and systematic uncertainties are taken into account, the ANN output requirement yielding the best expected exclusion limit in the SMS plane is ANN > 0.95. The expected number of SM and signal events for the CMSSM benchmark point LM6 after imposing the ANN output requirement of >0.95 are shown in Table 5. The remaining backgrounds are dominated by $t\bar{t}$ events in the dilepton final state, followed by $Z + \text{jets}$ production at a much smaller level.

Table 5: Expected number of events for signal and SM background and for the ANN output greater than > 0.95. The NLO cross section is used for the CMSSM benchmark point LM6.

Sample	Events with ANN > 0.95
$t\bar{t}$	125 ±38
Z + jets	14 ± 4
W + jets, WW, WZ, ZZ, QCD	<1
Total SM Bkg.	140 ± 42
LM6	40 ± 1

8 Results

The seven input ANN variables are shown in Fig. 4 for simulated and data events, after the candidate event selection criteria are applied and for signal events. Data and simulation are consistent with each other, within the statistical and systematic uncertainties.

Figure 5 shows the comparison between the SM ANN prediction and the data in the signal region including statistical and systematic uncertainties.

In the signal-like region there are 171 events observed and 140^{+73}_{-46} (stat.) $\pm$ 42 (syst.) expected. The statistical error on the expectation comes from the number of data events in the control region. The 95% confidence level (CL) upper limit (UL) on number of signal events is estimated to be 95. There is agreement between expectation and observation at a 68% CL. Figure 6 shows the $\not{E}_T$ and H_T distributions for data and simulated events in the signal-like region. These figures illustrate that this analysis accepts signal-like events with $\not{E}_T$ as low as 40 GeV or H_T as low as 120 GeV — regions not explored yet by other CMS analyses.

Finally, the observed and expected number of events are translated into limits on SUSY parameter space. The 95% CL upper limits are computed using a hybrid CL_s method with profile likelihood test statistics, and lognormal distributions for the background expectation [36, 37]. The uncertainties in the NLO+NLL cross sections from the parton distribution functions [38–42], the choice of the factorization and renormalization scale, and α_S, are taken into account for each point, and are evaluated according to the PDF4LHC recommendation [43]. A constant signal acceptance systematic uncertainty of 18% is assumed for each point. As described previously, the contamination of the signal in the control region is negligible and hence not taken into account in the limit setting.

The exclusion limits on SMS models are depicted in Fig. 7, and in the ($m_0, m_{1/2}$) CMSSM plane are shown in Fig. 8 [44].

As discussed earlier, for SUSY models that yield events with large $\not{E}_T$ (CMSSM with $m_0 < 1000$), the ANN's performance is comparable to the data analyses using large $\not{E}_T$ and H_T, and in some cases worse, given that the ANN has been trained with models characterized by low $\not{E}_T$ and H_T. For SUSY models that yield events with low $\not{E}_T$ and/or H_T (CMSSM with $m_0 > 1000$, and for SMS models close to the diagonal), the ANN's performance is better compared to the analyses using large $\not{E}_T$ and H_T selection criteria.

In the case of the CMSSM limits and for a specific choice of parameter values, squark masses below ∼700 GeV are excluded at 95% CL; and similarly gluino masses below ∼700 GeV are excluded for the region $m_0 < 700$ GeV. In the region $1000 < m_0 < 3000$ GeV, gluino masses below ∼300 GeV are excluded, while the squark mass in the excluded models varies in the range from 1000 GeV to 2500 GeV, depending on the value m_0. In the case of the SMS limits, for gluino masses below ∼800 GeV, LSP masses below ∼400 GeV are excluded. For gluino masses above ∼800 GeV, no limits on the mass of LSP can be set.
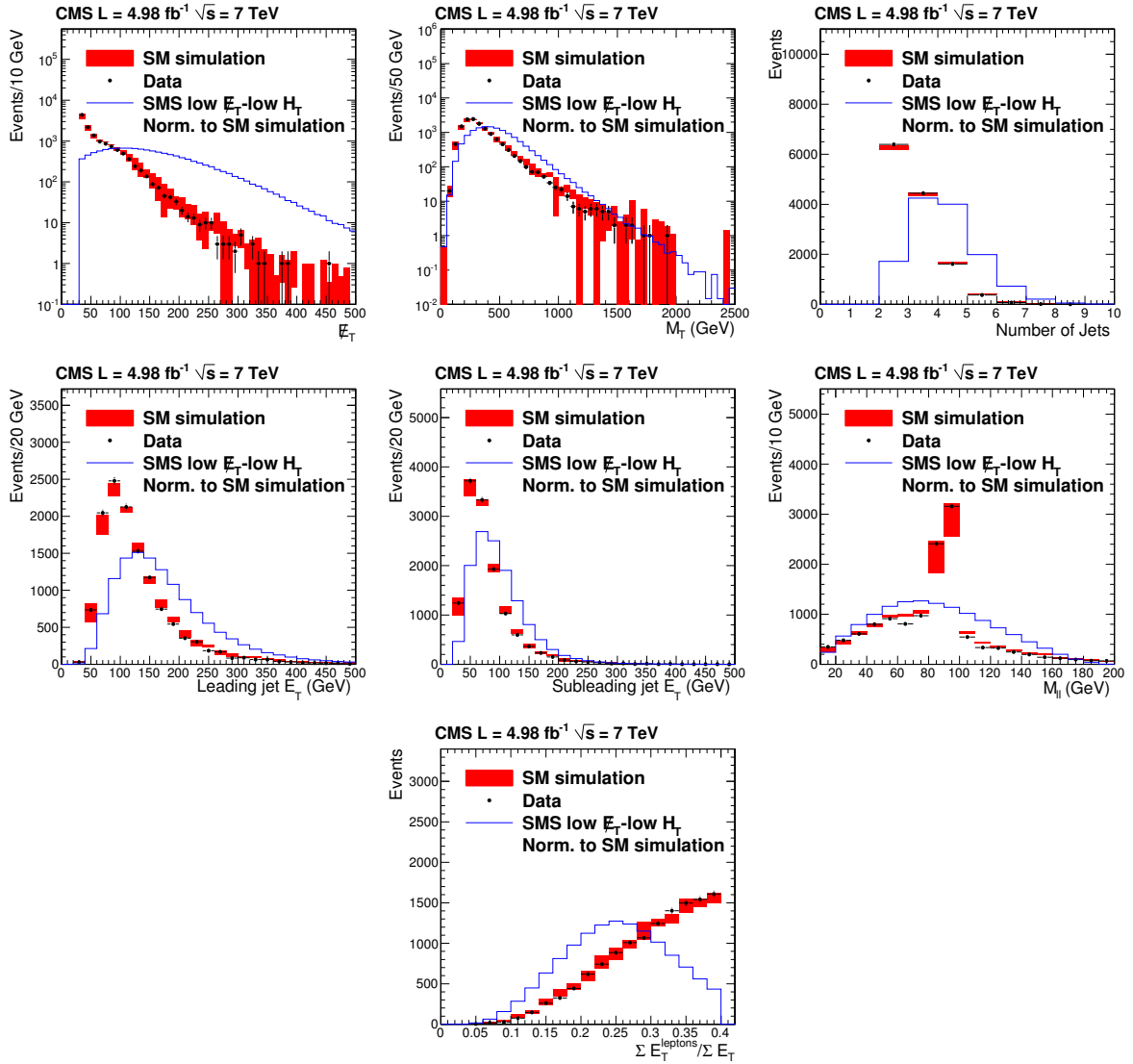
Figure 4: The distributions in seven input ANN variables for simulated SM background events (red shaded band showing combined statistical and systematic uncertainties) and SMS low-E_T low-H_T events (blue histogram), normalized to the same number of events. The data are also shown for comparison (black points with error bars).
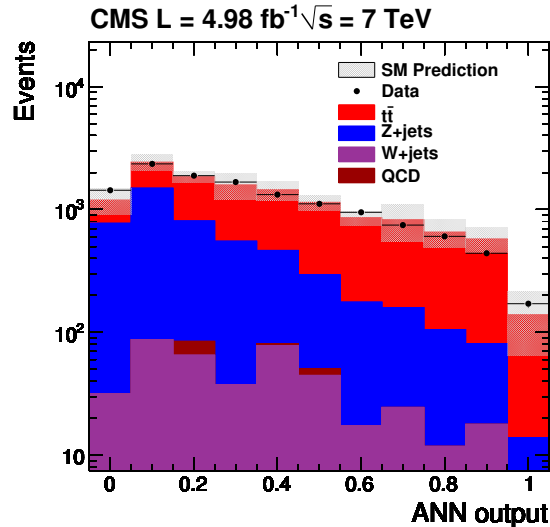
Figure 5: The ANN output for the data (black points) and the SM prediction based on control regions in data (gray band) in the signal region. The uncertainty on the SM prediction includes both statistical and systematic components.

9   Conclusions

A search for supersymmetry in events with two opposite-sign leptons in the final state and with the use of an artificial neural network has been presented, using the 2011 dataset collected with the CMS experiment. This search is complementary to the ones already published by the CMS collaboration and yields comparable exclusion limits for high-$\not{E}_T$, high-H_T SUSY models. In addition, the significantly relaxed criteria on $\not{E}_T$ and H_T with respect to the previously published analyses allows for the study of events not addressed by previous searches, and provides an independent and complementary probe of this particularly challenging region of phase space. Agreement is observed between the expectation from the SM and the data, with no significant excess, which results in limits in the CMSSM (m_0, $m_{1/2}$) and SMS ($m_{\tilde{g}}$, m_{LSP}) planes.
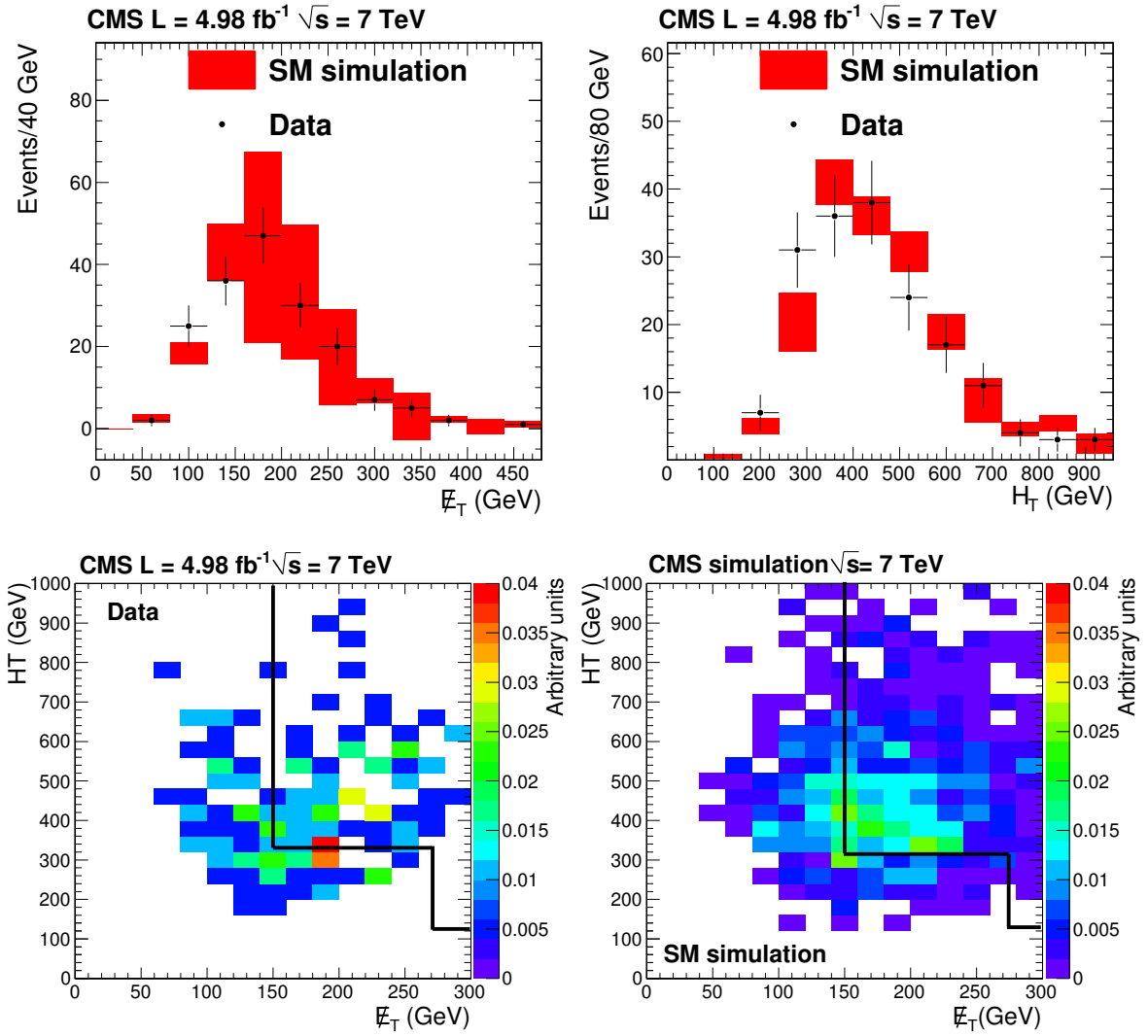
Acknowledgements

Figure 6: Distribution in $\not{E}_T$ (top left) and H_T (top right) for signal-like events (ANN output > 0.95) for data (black points with error bars) and simulation (red shaded band). The $\not{E}_T$ vs. H_T distributions for signal-like events (ANN > 0.95) in data (bottom left) and simulation (bottom right); the regions to the right and up of the black line are the ones also explored by other CMS opposite-sign dilepton searches.
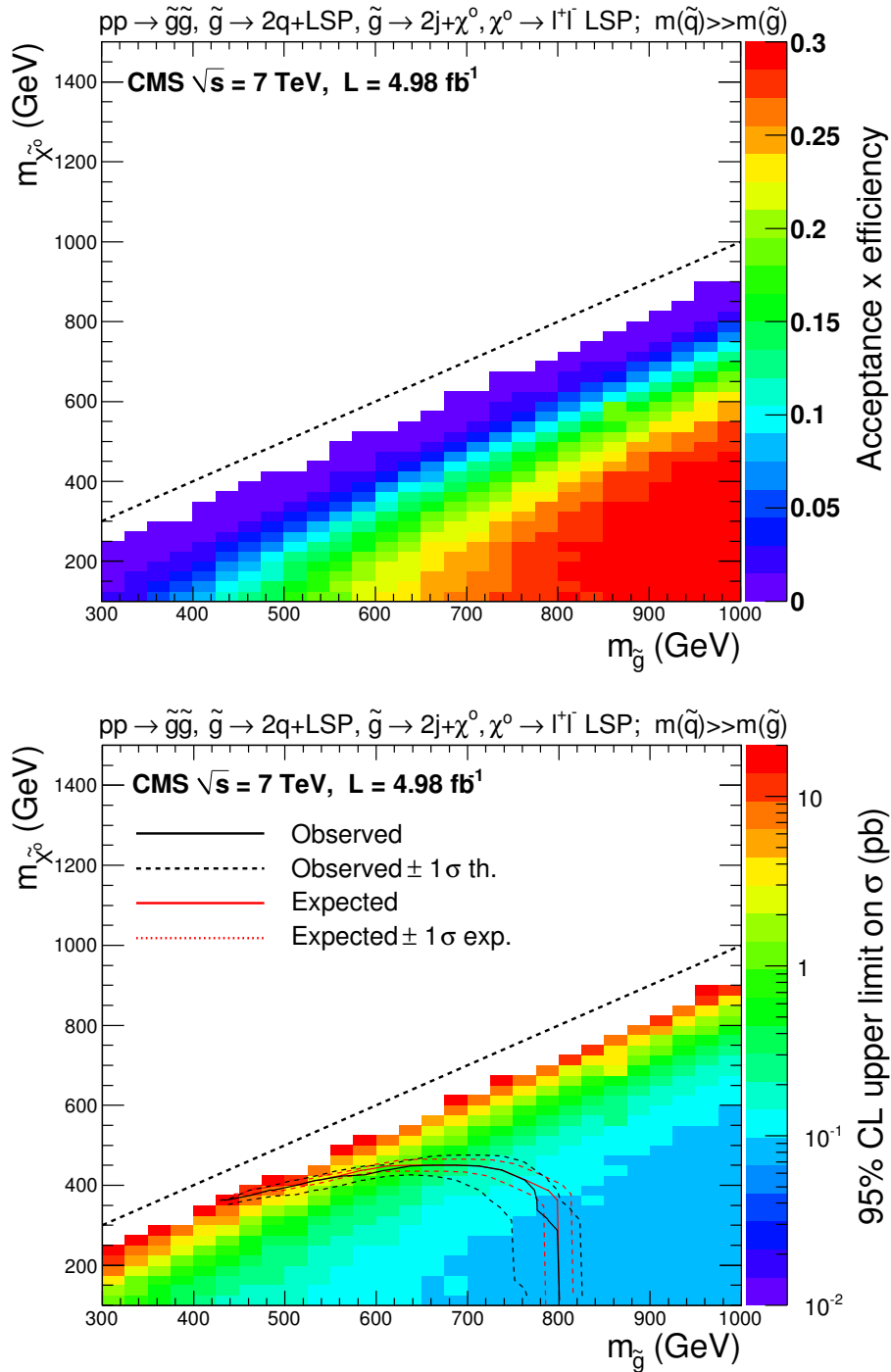
Figure 7: The 95% CL exclusion limits on the simplified model scenarios with the ANN analysis. The acceptance (fraction of events surviving event selection and candidate event selection) × efficiency (fraction of events surviving ANN selection) (top) and 95% CL upper cross section limit (bottom) are shown for different gluino and neutralino masses. The region just below the diagonal is not considered due to inadequate initial state radiation modelling.
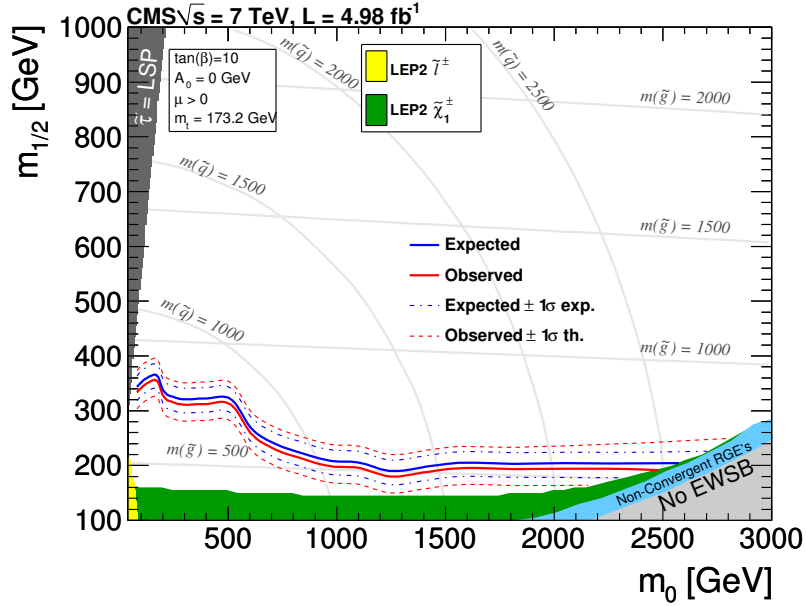
Figure 8: Expected (blue) and observed (red) 95% CL exclusion limit for the ANN analysis (for ANN output > 0.95) in the CMSSM plane. The one σ experimental error around the expected limit, and the one σ theoretical error around the observed limit are also shown.

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A The CMS Collaboration

Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia
S. Chatrchyan, V. Khachatryan, A.M. Sirunyan, A. Tumasyan

Institut für Hochenergiephysik der OeAW, Wien, Austria
W. Adam, E. Aguilo, T. Bergauer, M. Dragicevic, J. Erö, C. Fabjan[1], M. Friedl, R. Frühwirth[1], V.M. Ghete, N. Hörmann, J. Hrubec, M. Jeitler[1], W. Kiesenhofer, V. Knünz, M. Krammer[1], I. Krätschmer, D. Liko, I. Mikulec, M. Pernicka[†], D. Rabady[2], B. Rahbaran, C. Rohringer, H. Rohringer, R. Schöfbeck, J. Strauss, A. Taurok, W. Waltenberger, C.-E. Wulz[1]

National Centre for Particle and High Energy Physics, Minsk, Belarus
V. Mossolov, N. Shumeiko, J. Suarez Gonzalez

Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium
M. Bansal, S. Bansal, T. Cornelis, E.A. De Wolf, X. Janssen, S. Luyckx, L. Mucibello, S. Ochesanu, B. Roland, R. Rougny, M. Selvaggi, H. Van Haevermaet, P. Van Mechelen, N. Van Remortel, A. Van Spilbeeck

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium
F. Blekman, S. Blyweert, J. D'Hondt, R. Gonzalez Suarez, A. Kalogeropoulos, M. Maes, A. Olbrechts, W. Van Doninck, P. Van Mulders, G.P. Van Onsem, I. Villella

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium
B. Clerbaux, G. De Lentdecker, V. Dero, A.P.R. Gay, T. Hreus, A. Léonard, P.E. Marage, A. Mohammadi, T. Reis, L. Thomas, C. Vander Velde, P. Vanlaer, J. Wang

Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium
V. Adler, K. Beernaert, A. Cimmino, S. Costantini, G. Garcia, M. Grunewald, B. Klein, J. Lellouch, A. Marinov, J. Mccartin, A.A. Ocampo Rios, D. Ryckbosch, N. Strobbe, F. Thyssen, M. Tytgat, S. Walsh, E. Yazgan, N. Zaganidis

Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
S. Basegmez, G. Bruno, R. Castello, L. Ceard, C. Delaere, T. du Pree, D. Favart, L. Forthomme, A. Giammanco[3], J. Hollar, V. Lemaitre, J. Liao, O. Militaru, C. Nuttens, D. Pagano, A. Pin, K. Piotrzkowski, J.M. Vizan Garcia

Université de Mons, Mons, Belgium
N. Beliy, T. Caebergs, E. Daubie, G.H. Hammad

Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Fisicas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
G.A. Alves, M. Correa Martins Junior, T. Martins, M.E. Pol, M.H.G. Souza

Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
W.L. Aldá Júnior, W. Carvalho, A. Custódio, E.M. Da Costa, D. De Jesus Damiao, C. De Oliveira Martins, S. Fonseca De Souza, H. Malbouisson, M. Malek, D. Matos Figueiredo, L. Mundim, H. Nogima, W.L. Prado Da Silva, A. Santoro, L. Soares Jorge, A. Sznajder, A. Vilela Pereira

Universidade Estadual Paulista [a], Universidade Federal do ABC [b], São Paulo, Brazil
T.S. Anjos[b], C.A. Bernardes[b], F.A. Dias[a,4], T.R. Fernandez Perez Tomei[a], E.M. Gregores[b], C. Lagana[a], F. Marinho[a], P.G. Mercadante[b], S.F. Novaes[a], Sandra S. Padula[a]

Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy, Sofia, Bulgaria
V. Genchev[2], P. Iaydjiev[2], S. Piperov, M. Rodozov, S. Stoykova, G. Sultanov, V. Tcholakov, R. Trayanov, M. Vutova

University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria
A. Dimitrov, R. Hadjiiska, V. Kozhuharov, L. Litov, 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, X. Meng, J. Tao, J. Wang, X. Wang, Z. Wang, H. Xiao, M. Xu, J. Zang, Z. Zhang

State Key Lab. of Nucl. Phys. and Tech., Peking University, Beijing, China
C. Asawatangtrakuldee, Y. Ban, Y. Guo, W. Li, S. Liu, Y. Mao, S.J. Qian, H. Teng, D. Wang, L. Zhang, W. Zou

Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia
C. Avila, J.P. Gomez, B. Gomez Moreno, A.F. Osorio Oliveros, J.C. Sanabria

Technical University of Split, Split, Croatia
N. Godinovic, D. Lelas, R. Plestina[5], D. Polic, I. Puljak[2]

University of Split, Split, Croatia
Z. Antunovic, M. Kovac

Institute Rudjer Boskovic, Zagreb, Croatia
V. Brigljevic, S. Duric, K. Kadija, J. Luetic, D. Mekterovic, S. Morovic

University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus
A. Attikis, M. Galanti, G. Mavromanolakis, J. Mousa, C. Nicolaou, F. Ptochos, P.A. Razis

Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
M. Finger, M. Finger Jr.

Academy of Scientific Research and Technology of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Egyptian Network of High Energy Physics, Cairo, Egypt
Y. Assran[6], S. Elgammal[7], A. Ellithi Kamel[8], M.A. Mahmoud[9], A. Mahrous[10], A. Radi[11,12]

National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia
M. Kadastik, M. Müntel, M. Murumaa, M. Raidal, L. Rebane, A. Tiko

Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland
P. Eerola, G. Fedi, M. Voutilainen

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

Lappeenranta University of Technology, Lappeenranta, Finland
K. Banzuzi, A. Karjalainen, A. Korpela, T. Tuuva

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, A. Givernaud, P. Gras, G. Hamel de Monchenault, P. Jarry, E. Locci, J. Malcles, L. Millischer, A. Nayak, J. Rander, A. Rosowsky, M. Titov

Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, Ecole Polytechnique, IN2P3-CNRS, Palaiseau, France
S. Baffioni, F. Beaudette, L. Benhabib, L. Bianchini, M. Bluj[13], P. Busson, C. Charlot, N. Daci, T. Dahms, M. Dalchenko, L. Dobrzynski, A. Florent, R. Granier de Cassagnac, M. Haguenauer, P. Miné, C. Mironov, I.N. Naranjo, M. Nguyen, C. Ochando, P. Paganini, D. Sabes, R. Salerno, Y. Sirois, C. Veelken, A. Zabi

Institut Pluridisciplinaire Hubert Curien, Université de Strasbourg, Université de Haute Alsace Mulhouse, CNRS/IN2P3, Strasbourg, France
J.-L. Agram[14], J. Andrea, D. Bloch, D. Bodin, J.-M. Brom, M. Cardaci, E.C. Chabert, C. Collard, E. Conte[14], F. Drouhin[14], J.-C. Fontaine[14], D. Gelé, U. Goerlach, P. Juillot, A.-C. Le Bihan, P. Van Hove

Centre de Calcul de l'Institut National de Physique Nucleaire et de Physique des Particules, CNRS/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
S. Beauceron, N. Beaupere, O. Bondu, G. Boudoul, S. Brochet, J. Chasserat, R. Chierici[2], D. Contardo, P. Depasse, H. El Mamouni, J. Fay, S. Gascon, M. Gouzevitch, B. Ille, T. Kurca, M. Lethuillier, L. Mirabito, S. Perries, L. Sgandurra, V. Sordini, Y. Tschudi, P. Verdier, S. Viret

Institute of High Energy Physics and Informatization, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
Z. Tsamalaidze[15]

RWTH Aachen University, I. Physikalisches Institut, Aachen, Germany
C. Autermann, S. Beranek, B. Calpas, M. Edelhoff, L. Feld, N. Heracleous, O. Hindrichs, R. Jussen, K. Klein, J. Merz, A. Ostapchuk, A. Perieanu, F. Raupach, J. Sammet, S. Schael, D. Sprenger, H. Weber, B. Wittmer, V. Zhukov[16]

RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut A, Aachen, Germany
M. Ata, J. Caudron, E. Dietz-Laursonn, D. Duchardt, M. Erdmann, R. Fischer, A. Güth, T. Hebbeker, C. Heidemann, K. Hoepfner, D. Klingebiel, P. Kreuzer, M. Merschmeyer, A. Meyer, M. Olschewski, P. Papacz, H. Pieta, H. Reithler, S.A. Schmitz, L. Sonnenschein, J. Steggemann, D. Teyssier, S. Thüer, M. Weber

RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut B, Aachen, Germany
M. Bontenackels, V. Cherepanov, Y. Erdogan, G. Flügge, H. Geenen, M. Geisler, W. Haj Ahmad, F. Hoehle, B. Kargoll, T. Kress, Y. Kuessel, J. Lingemann[2], A. Nowack, L. Perchalla, O. Pooth, P. Sauerland, A. Stahl

Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany
M. Aldaya Martin, J. Behr, W. Behrenhoff, U. Behrens, M. Bergholz[17], A. Bethani, K. Borras, A. Burgmeier, A. Cakir, L. Calligaris, A. Campbell, E. Castro, F. Costanza, D. Dammann, C. Diez Pardos, G. Eckerlin, D. Eckstein, G. Flucke, A. Geiser, I. Glushkov, P. Gunnellini, S. Habib, J. Hauk, G. Hellwig, H. Jung, M. Kasemann, P. Katsas, C. Kleinwort, H. Kluge, A. Knutsson, M. Krämer, D. Krücker, E. Kuznetsova, W. Lange, J. Leonard, W. Lohmann[17], B. Lutz, R. Mankel, I. Marfin, M. Marienfeld, I.-A. Melzer-Pellmann, A.B. Meyer, J. Mnich, A. Mussgiller, S. Naumann-Emme, O. Novgorodova, J. Olzem, H. Perrey, A. Petrukhin, D. Pitzl, A. Raspereza, P.M. Ribeiro Cipriano, C. Riedl, E. Ron, M. Rosin, J. Salfeld-Nebgen, R. Schmidt[17], T. Schoerner-Sadenius, N. Sen, A. Spiridonov, M. Stein, R. Walsh, C. Wissing

University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany
V. Blobel, H. Enderle, J. Erfle, U. Gebbert, M. Görner, M. Gosselink, J. Haller, T. Hermanns, R.S. Höing, K. Kaschube, G. Kaussen, H. Kirschenmann, R. Klanner, J. Lange, F. Nowak, T. Peiffer, N. Pietsch, D. Rathjens, C. Sander, H. Schettler, P. Schleper, E. Schlieckau, A. Schmidt, M. Schröder, T. Schum, M. Seidel, J. Sibille[18], V. Sola, H. Stadie, G. Steinbrück, J. Thomsen, L. Vanelderen

Institut für Experimentelle Kernphysik, Karlsruhe, Germany
C. Barth, J. Berger, C. Böser, T. Chwalek, W. De Boer, A. Descroix, A. Dierlamm, M. Feindt, M. Guthoff[2], C. Hackstein, F. Hartmann[2], T. Hauth[2], M. Heinrich, H. Held, K.H. Hoffmann, U. Husemann, I. Katkov[16], J.R. Komaragiri, P. Lobelle Pardo, D. Martschei, S. Mueller, Th. Müller, M. Niegel, A. Nürnberg, O. Oberst, A. Oehler, J. Ott, G. Quast, K. Rabbertz, F. Ratnikov, N. Ratnikova, S. Röcker, F.-P. Schilling, G. Schott, H.J. Simonis, F.M. Stober, D. Troendle, R. Ulrich, J. Wagner-Kuhr, S. Wayand, T. Weiler, M. Zeise

Institute of Nuclear Physics "Demokritos", Aghia Paraskevi, Greece
G. Anagnostou, G. Daskalakis, T. Geralis, S. Kesisoglou, A. Kyriakis, D. Loukas, I. Manolakos, A. Markou, C. Markou, E. Ntomari

University of Athens, Athens, Greece
L. Gouskos, T.J. Mertzimekis, A. Panagiotou, N. Saoulidou

University of Ioánnina, Ioánnina, Greece
I. Evangelou, C. Foudas, P. Kokkas, N. Manthos, I. Papadopoulos, V. Patras

KFKI Research Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, Budapest, Hungary
G. Bencze, C. Hajdu, P. Hidas, D. Horvath[19], F. Sikler, V. Veszpremi, G. Vesztergombi[20]

Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary
N. Beni, S. Czellar, J. Molnar, J. Palinkas, Z. Szillasi

University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary
J. Karancsi, P. Raics, Z.L. Trocsanyi, B. Ujvari

Panjab University, Chandigarh, India
S.B. Beri, V. Bhatnagar, N. Dhingra, R. Gupta, M. Kaur, M.Z. Mehta, N. Nishu, L.K. Saini, A. Sharma, J.B. Singh

University of Delhi, Delhi, India
Ashok Kumar, Arun Kumar, S. Ahuja, A. Bhardwaj, B.C. Choudhary, S. Malhotra, M. Naimuddin, K. Ranjan, V. Sharma, R.K. Shivpuri

Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, India
S. Banerjee, S. Bhattacharya, S. Dutta, B. Gomber, Sa. Jain, Sh. Jain, R. Khurana, S. Sarkar, M. Sharan

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, India
A. Abdulsalam, D. Dutta, S. Kailas, V. Kumar, A.K. Mohanty[2], L.M. Pant, P. Shukla

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research - EHEP, Mumbai, India
T. Aziz, S. Ganguly, M. Guchait[21], A. Gurtu[22], M. Maity[23], G. Majumder, K. Mazumdar, G.B. Mohanty, B. Parida, K. Sudhakar, N. Wickramage

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research - HECR, Mumbai, India
S. Banerjee, S. Dugad

Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences (IPM), Tehran, Iran
H. Arfaei[24], H. Bakhshiansohi, S.M. Etesami[25], A. Fahim[24], M. Hashemi[26], H. Hesari, A. Jafari, M. Khakzad, M. Mohammadi Najafabadi, S. Paktinat Mehdiabadi, B. Safarzadeh[27], M. Zeinali

INFN Sezione di Bari [a], Università di Bari [b], Politecnico di Bari [c], Bari, Italy
M. Abbrescia[a,b], L. Barbone[a,b], C. Calabria[a,b,2], S.S. Chhibra[a,b], A. Colaleo[a], D. Creanza[a,c], N. De Filippis[a,c,2], M. De Palma[a,b], L. Fiore[a], G. Iaselli[a,c], G. Maggi[a,c], M. Maggi[a], B. Marangelli[a,b],

S. My[a,c], S. Nuzzo[a,b], N. Pacifico[a], A. Pompili[a,b], G. Pugliese[a,c], G. Selvaggi[a,b], L. Silvestris[a], G. Singh[a,b], R. Venditti[a,b], P. Verwilligen[a], G. Zito[a]

INFN Sezione di Bologna [a], Università di Bologna [b], Bologna, Italy
G. Abbiendi[a], A.C. Benvenuti[a], D. Bonacorsi[a,b], S. Braibant-Giacomelli[a,b], L. Brigliadori[a,b], 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,b], P. Giacomelli[a], C. Grandi[a], L. Guiducci[a,b], S. Marcellini[a], G. Masetti[a], M. Meneghelli[a,b,2], A. Montanari[a], F.L. Navarria[a,b], F. Odorici[a], A. Perrotta[a], F. Primavera[a,b], A.M. Rossi[a,b], T. Rovelli[a,b], G.P. Siroli[a,b], N. Tosi, R. Travaglini[a,b]

INFN Sezione di Catania [a], Università di Catania [b], Catania, Italy
S. Albergo[a,b], G. Cappello[a,b], M. Chiorboli[a,b], S. Costa[a,b], R. Potenza[a,b], A. Tricomi[a,b], C. Tuve[a,b]

INFN Sezione di Firenze [a], Università di Firenze [b], Firenze, 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], M. Meschini[a], S. Paoletti[a], G. Sguazzoni[a], A. Tropiano[a,b]

INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy
L. Benussi, S. Bianco, S. Colafranceschi[28], F. Fabbri, D. Piccolo

INFN Sezione di Genova [a], Università di Genova [b], Genova, Italy
P. Fabbricatore[a], R. Musenich[a], S. Tosi[a,b]

INFN Sezione di Milano-Bicocca [a], Università di Milano-Bicocca [b], Milano, Italy
A. Benaglia[a], F. De Guio[a,b], L. Di Matteo[a,b,2], S. Fiorendi[a,b], S. Gennai[a,2], A. Ghezzi[a,b], S. Malvezzi[a], R.A. Manzoni[a,b], 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]

INFN Sezione di Napoli [a], Università di Napoli 'Federico II' [b], Università della Basilicata (Potenza) [c], Università G. Marconi (Roma) [d], Napoli, Italy
S. Buontempo[a], C.A. Carrillo Montoya[a], N. Cavallo[a,c], A. De Cosa[a,b,2], O. Dogangun[a,b], F. Fabozzi[a,c], A.O.M. Iorio[a,b], L. Lista[a], S. Meola[a,d,29], M. Merola[a], P. Paolucci[a,2]

INFN Sezione di Padova [a], Università di Padova [b], Università di Trento (Trento) [c], Padova, Italy
P. Azzi[a], N. Bacchetta[a,2], D. Bisello[a,b], A. Branca[a,b,2], R. Carlin[a,b], P. Checchia[a], T. Dorigo[a], F. Gasparini[a,b], U. Gasparini[a,b], A. Gozzelino[a], K. Kanishchev[a,c], S. Lacaprara[a], I. Lazzizzera[a,c], M. Margoni[a,b], A.T. Meneguzzo[a,b], J. Pazzini[a,b], 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], A. Zucchetta[a,b], G. Zumerle[a,b]

INFN Sezione di Pavia [a], Università di Pavia [b], Pavia, Italy
M. Gabusi[a,b], S.P. Ratti[a,b], C. Riccardi[a,b], P. Torre[a,b], P. Vitulo[a,b]

INFN Sezione di Perugia [a], Università di Perugia [b], Perugia, Italy
M. Biasini[a,b], G.M. Bilei[a], L. Fanò[a,b], P. Lariccia[a,b], G. Mantovani[a,b], M. Menichelli[a], A. Nappi[a,b†], F. Romeo[a,b], A. Saha[a], A. Santocchia[a,b], A. Spiezia[a,b], S. Taroni[a,b]

INFN Sezione di Pisa [a], Università di Pisa [b], Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa [c], Pisa, Italy
P. Azzurri[a,c], G. Bagliesi[a], J. Bernardini[a], T. Boccali[a], G. Broccolo[a,c], R. Castaldi[a], R.T. D'Agnolo[a,c,2], R. Dell'Orso[a], F. Fiori[a,b,2], L. Foà[a,c], A. Giassi[a], A. Kraan[a], F. Ligabue[a,c], T. Lomtadze[a], L. Martini[a,30], A. Messineo[a,b], F. Palla[a], A. Rizzi[a,b], A.T. Serban[a,31], P. Spagnolo[a], P. Squillacioti[a,2], R. Tenchini[a], G. Tonelli[a,b], A. Venturi[a], P.G. Verdini[a]

INFN Sezione di Roma [a], Università di Roma [b], Roma, Italy
L. Barone[a,b], F. Cavallari[a], D. Del Re[a,b], M. Diemoz[a], C. Fanelli[a,b], M. Grassi[a,b,2], E. Longo[a,b],

P. Meridiani[a,2], F. Micheli[a,b], S. Nourbakhsh[a,b], G. Organtini[a,b], R. Paramatti[a], S. Rahatlou[a,b], M. Sigamani[a], L. Soffi[a,b]

INFN Sezione di Torino [a]**, Università di Torino** [b]**, Università del Piemonte Orientale (Novara)** [c]**, Torino, Italy**
N. Amapane[a,b], R. Arcidiacono[a,c], S. Argiro[a,b], M. Arneodo[a,c], C. Biino[a], N. Cartiglia[a], S. Casasso[a,b], M. Costa[a,b], N. Demaria[a], C. Mariotti[a,2], S. Maselli[a], E. Migliore[a,b], V. Monaco[a,b], M. Musich[a,2], M.M. Obertino[a,c], N. Pastrone[a], M. Pelliccioni[a], A. Potenza[a,b], A. Romero[a,b], M. Ruspa[a,c], R. Sacchi[a,b], A. Solano[a,b], A. Staiano[a]

INFN Sezione di Trieste [a]**, Università di Trieste** [b]**, Trieste, Italy**
S. Belforte[a], V. Candelise[a,b], M. Casarsa[a], F. Cossutti[a], G. Della Ricca[a,b], B. Gobbo[a], M. Marone[a,b,2], D. Montanino[a,b,2], A. Penzo[a], A. Schizzi[a,b]

Kangwon National University, Chunchon, Korea
T.Y. Kim, S.K. Nam

Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea
S. Chang, D.H. Kim, G.N. Kim, D.J. Kong, H. Park, D.C. Son, T. Son

Chonnam National University, Institute for Universe and Elementary Particles, Kwangju, Korea
J.Y. Kim, Zero J. Kim, S. Song

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

University of Seoul, Seoul, Korea
M. Choi, J.H. Kim, C. Park, I.C. Park, S. Park, G. Ryu

Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, Korea
Y. Choi, Y.K. Choi, J. Goh, M.S. Kim, E. Kwon, B. Lee, J. Lee, S. Lee, H. Seo, I. Yu

Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania
M.J. Bilinskas, I. Grigelionis, M. Janulis, A. Juodagalvis

Centro de Investigacion y de Estudios Avanzados del IPN, Mexico City, Mexico
H. Castilla-Valdez, E. De La Cruz-Burelo, I. Heredia-de La Cruz, R. Lopez-Fernandez, J. Martínez-Ortega, A. Sanchez-Hernandez, 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
D. Krofcheck

University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand
A.J. Bell, P.H. Butler, R. Doesburg, S. Reucroft, H. Silverwood

National Centre for Physics, Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan
M. Ahmad, M.I. Asghar, J. Butt, H.R. Hoorani, S. Khalid, W.A. Khan, T. Khurshid, S. Qazi, M.A. Shah, M. Shoaib

National Centre for Nuclear Research, Swierk, Poland
H. Bialkowska, B. Boimska, T. Frueboes, M. Górski, M. Kazana, K. Nawrocki, K. Romanowska-Rybinska, M. Szleper, G. Wrochna, P. Zalewski

Institute of Experimental Physics, Faculty of Physics, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland
G. Brona, K. Bunkowski, M. Cwiok, W. Dominik, K. Doroba, A. Kalinowski, M. Konecki, J. Krolikowski, M. Misiura

Laboratório de Instrumentação e Física Experimental de Partículas, Lisboa, Portugal
N. Almeida, P. Bargassa, A. David, P. Faccioli, P.G. Ferreira Parracho, M. Gallinaro, J. Seixas, J. Varela, P. Vischia

Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia
I. Belotelov, P. Bunin, I. Golutvin, I. Gorbunov, A. Kamenev, V. Karjavin, G. Kozlov, A. Lanev, A. Malakhov, P. Moisenz, V. Palichik, V. Perelygin, M. Savina, S. Shmatov, V. Smirnov, A. Volodko, A. Zarubin

Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina (St. Petersburg), Russia
S. Evstyukhin, V. Golovtsov, Y. Ivanov, V. Kim, P. Levchenko, V. Murzin, V. Oreshkin, I. Smirnov, V. Sulimov, L. Uvarov, S. Vavilov, A. Vorobyev, An. Vorobyev

Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia
Yu. Andreev, A. Dermenev, S. Gninenko, N. Golubev, M. Kirsanov, N. Krasnikov, V. Matveev, A. Pashenkov, D. Tlisov, A. Toropin

Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia
V. Epshteyn, M. Erofeeva, V. Gavrilov, M. Kossov, N. Lychkovskaya, V. Popov, G. Safronov, S. Semenov, I. Shreyber, V. Stolin, E. Vlasov, A. Zhokin

Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
A. Belyaev, E. Boos, M. Dubinin[4], L. Dudko, A. Ershov, A. Gribushin, V. Klyukhin, O. Kodolova, I. Lokhtin, A. Markina, S. Obraztsov, M. Perfilov, S. Petrushanko, A. Popov, L. Sarycheva[†], V. Savrin, A. Snigirev

P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia
V. Andreev, M. Azarkin, I. Dremin, M. Kirakosyan, A. Leonidov, G. Mesyats, S.V. Rusakov, A. Vinogradov

State Research Center of Russian Federation, Institute for High Energy Physics, Protvino, Russia
I. Azhgirey, I. Bayshev, S. Bitioukov, V. Grishin[2], V. Kachanov, D. Konstantinov, V. Krychkine, V. Petrov, R. Ryutin, 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[32], M. Djordjevic, M. Ekmedzic, D. Krpic[32], 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. Cerrada, M. Chamizo Llatas, N. Colino, B. De La Cruz, A. Delgado Peris, 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, A. Quintario Olmeda, I. Redondo, L. Romero, J. Santaolalla, M.S. Soares, C. Willmott

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain
C. Albajar, G. Codispoti, J.F. de Trocóniz

Universidad de Oviedo, Oviedo, Spain
H. Brun, J. Cuevas, J. Fernandez Menendez, S. Folgueras, I. Gonzalez Caballero, L. Lloret Iglesias, J. Piedra Gomez

Instituto de Física de Cantabria (IFCA), CSIC-Universidad de Cantabria, Santander, Spain
J.A. Brochero Cifuentes, I.J. Cabrillo, A. Calderon, S.H. Chuang, J. Duarte Campderros, M. Felcini[33], M. Fernandez, G. Gomez, J. Gonzalez Sanchez, A. Graziano, C. Jorda, A. Lopez Virto, J. Marco, R. Marco, C. Martinez Rivero, F. Matorras, F.J. Munoz Sanchez, T. Rodrigo, A.Y. Rodríguez-Marrero, A. Ruiz-Jimeno, L. Scodellaro, I. Vila, R. Vilar Cortabitarte

CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland
D. Abbaneo, E. Auffray, G. Auzinger, M. Bachtis, P. Baillon, A.H. Ball, D. Barney, J.F. Benitez, C. Bernet[5], G. Bianchi, P. Bloch, A. Bocci, A. Bonato, C. Botta, H. Breuker, T. Camporesi, G. Cerminara, T. Christiansen, J.A. Coarasa Perez, D. D'Enterria, A. Dabrowski, A. De Roeck, S. Di Guida, M. Dobson, N. Dupont-Sagorin, A. Elliott-Peisert, B. Frisch, W. Funk, G. Georgiou, M. Giffels, D. Gigi, K. Gill, D. Giordano, M. Girone, M. Giunta, F. Glege, R. Gomez-Reino Garrido, P. Govoni, S. Gowdy, R. Guida, S. Gundacker, J. Hammer, M. Hansen, P. Harris, C. Hartl, J. Harvey, B. Hegner, A. Hinzmann, V. Innocente, P. Janot, K. Kaadze, E. Karavakis, K. Kousouris, P. Lecoq, Y.-J. Lee, P. Lenzi, C. Lourenço, N. Magini, T. Mäki, M. Malberti, L. Malgeri, M. Mannelli, L. Masetti, F. Meijers, S. Mersi, E. Meschi, R. Moser, M.U. Mozer, M. Mulders, P. Musella, E. Nesvold, L. Orsini, E. Palencia Cortezon, E. Perez, L. Perrozzi, A. Petrilli, A. Pfeiffer, M. Pierini, M. Pimiä, D. Piparo, G. Polese, L. Quertenmont, A. Racz, W. Reece, J. Rodrigues Antunes, G. Rolandi[34], C. Rovelli[35], M. Rovere, H. Sakulin, F. Santanastasio, C. Schäfer, C. Schwick, I. Segoni, S. Sekmen, A. Sharma, P. Siegrist, P. Silva, M. Simon, P. Sphicas[36], D. Spiga, A. Tsirou, G.I. Veres[20], J.R. Vlimant, H.K. Wöhri, S.D. Worm[37], 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

Institute for Particle Physics, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
L. Bäni, P. Bortignon, M.A. Buchmann, B. Casal, N. Chanon, A. Deisher, G. Dissertori, M. Dittmar, M. Donegà, M. Dünser, P. Eller, J. Eugster, K. Freudenreich, C. Grab, D. Hits, P. Lecomte, W. Lustermann, A.C. Marini, P. Martinez Ruiz del Arbol, N. Mohr, F. Moortgat, C. Nägeli[38], P. Nef, F. Nessi-Tedaldi, F. Pandolfi, L. Pape, F. Pauss, M. Peruzzi, F.J. Ronga, M. Rossini, L. Sala, A.K. Sanchez, A. Starodumov[39], B. Stieger, M. Takahashi, L. Tauscher[†], A. Thea, K. Theofilatos, D. Treille, C. Urscheler, R. Wallny, H.A. Weber, L. Wehrli

Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland
C. Amsler[40], V. Chiochia, S. De Visscher, C. Favaro, M. Ivova Rikova, B. Kilminster, B. Millan Mejias, P. Otiougova, P. Robmann, H. Snoek, S. Tupputi, M. Verzetti

National Central University, Chung-Li, Taiwan
Y.H. Chang, K.H. Chen, C. Ferro, C.M. Kuo, S.W. Li, W. Lin, Y.J. Lu, A.P. Singh, R. Volpe, S.S. Yu

National Taiwan University (NTU), Taipei, Taiwan
P. Bartalini, P. Chang, Y.H. Chang, Y.W. Chang, Y. Chao, K.F. Chen, C. Dietz, U. Grundler, W.-S. Hou, Y. Hsiung, K.Y. Kao, Y.J. Lei, R.-S. Lu, D. Majumder, E. Petrakou, X. Shi, J.G. Shiu, Y.M. Tzeng, X. Wan, M. Wang

Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
B. Asavapibhop, N. Srimanobhas

Cukurova University, Adana, Turkey
A. Adiguzel, M.N. Bakirci[41], S. Cerci[42], C. Dozen, I. Dumanoglu, E. Eskut, S. Girgis, G. Gokbulut, E. Gurpinar, I. Hos, E.E. Kangal, T. Karaman, G. Karapinar[43], A. Kayis Topaksu, G. Onengut, K. Ozdemir, S. Ozturk[44], A. Polatoz, K. Sogut[45], D. Sunar Cerci[42], B. Tali[42], H. Topakli[41], L.N. Vergili, M. Vergili

Middle East Technical University, Physics Department, Ankara, Turkey
I.V. Akin, T. Aliev, B. Bilin, S. Bilmis, M. Deniz, H. Gamsizkan, A.M. Guler, K. Ocalan, A. Ozpineci, M. Serin, R. Sever, U.E. Surat, M. Yalvac, E. Yildirim, M. Zeyrek

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey
E. Gülmez, B. Isildak[46], M. Kaya[47], O. Kaya[47], S. Ozkorucuklu[48], N. Sonmez[49]

Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey
K. Cankocak

National Scientific Center, Kharkov Institute of Physics and Technology, Kharkov, Ukraine
L. Levchuk

University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom
J.J. Brooke, E. Clement, D. Cussans, H. Flacher, R. Frazier, J. Goldstein, M. Grimes, G.P. Heath, H.F. Heath, L. Kreczko, S. Metson, D.M. Newbold[37], K. Nirunpong, A. Poll, S. Senkin, V.J. Smith, T. Williams

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
L. Basso[50], K.W. Bell, A. Belyaev[50], C. Brew, R.M. Brown, D.J.A. Cockerill, J.A. Coughlan, K. Harder, S. Harper, J. Jackson, B.W. Kennedy, E. Olaiya, D. Petyt, B.C. Radburn-Smith, C.H. Shepherd-Themistocleous, I.R. Tomalin, W.J. Womersley

Imperial College, London, United Kingdom
R. Bainbridge, G. Ball, R. Beuselinck, O. Buchmuller, D. Colling, N. Cripps, M. Cutajar, P. Dauncey, 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, A.-M. Magnan, J. Marrouche, B. Mathias, R. Nandi, J. Nash, A. Nikitenko[39], J. Pela, M. Pesaresi, K. Petridis, M. Pioppi[51], D.M. Raymond, S. Rogerson, A. Rose, M.J. Ryan, C. Seez, P. Sharp[†], A. Sparrow, M. Stoye, A. Tapper, M. Vazquez Acosta, T. Virdee, S. Wakefield, N. Wardle, T. Whyntie

Brunel University, Uxbridge, United Kingdom
M. Chadwick, J.E. Cole, P.R. Hobson, A. Khan, P. Kyberd, D. Leggat, D. Leslie, W. Martin, I.D. Reid, P. Symonds, L. Teodorescu, M. Turner

Baylor University, Waco, USA
K. Hatakeyama, H. Liu, T. Scarborough

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA
O. Charaf, C. Henderson, P. Rumerio

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

Brown University, Providence, USA
J. Alimena, S. Bhattacharya, G. Christopher, D. Cutts, Z. Demiragli, A. Ferapontov, A. Garabedian, U. Heintz, S. Jabeen, G. Kukartsev, E. Laird, G. Landsberg, M. Luk, M. Narain, D. Nguyen, M. Segala, T. Sinthuprasith, T. Speer

University of California, Davis, Davis, USA
R. Breedon, G. Breto, M. Calderon De La Barca Sanchez, S. Chauhan, M. Chertok, J. Conway, R. Conway, P.T. Cox, J. Dolen, R. Erbacher, M. Gardner, R. Houtz, W. Ko, A. Kopecky, R. Lander, O. Mall, T. Miceli, D. Pellett, F. Ricci-Tam, B. Rutherford, M. Searle, J. Smith, M. Squires, M. Tripathi, R. Vasquez Sierra, R. Yohay

University of California, Los Angeles, USA
V. Andreev, D. Cline, R. Cousins, J. Duris, S. Erhan, P. Everaerts, C. Farrell, J. Hauser, M. Ignatenko, C. Jarvis, G. Rakness, P. Schlein[†], P. Traczyk, V. Valuev, M. Weber

University of California, Riverside, Riverside, USA
J. Babb, R. Clare, M.E. Dinardo, J. Ellison, J.W. Gary, F. Giordano, G. Hanson, H. Liu, O.R. Long, A. Luthra, H. Nguyen, S. Paramesvaran, J. Sturdy, S. Sumowidagdo, R. Wilken, S. Wimpenny

University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, USA
W. Andrews, J.G. Branson, G.B. Cerati, S. Cittolin, D. Evans, A. Holzner, R. Kelley, M. Lebourgeois, J. Letts, I. Macneill, B. Mangano, S. Padhi, C. Palmer, G. Petrucciani, M. Pieri, M. Sani, V. Sharma, S. Simon, E. Sudano, M. Tadel, Y. Tu, A. Vartak, S. Wasserbaech[52], F. Würthwein, A. Yagil, J. Yoo

University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, USA
D. Barge, R. Bellan, C. Campagnari, M. D'Alfonso, T. Danielson, K. Flowers, P. Geffert, F. Golf, J. Incandela, C. Justus, P. Kalavase, D. Kovalskyi, V. Krutelyov, S. Lowette, R. Magaña Villalba, N. Mccoll, V. Pavlunin, J. Ribnik, J. Richman, R. Rossin, D. Stuart, W. To, C. West

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA
A. Apresyan, A. Bornheim, Y. Chen, E. Di Marco, J. Duarte, M. Gataullin, Y. Ma, A. Mott, H.B. Newman, C. Rogan, M. Spiropulu, V. Timciuc, J. Veverka, R. Wilkinson, S. Xie, Y. Yang, R.Y. Zhu

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA
V. Azzolini, A. Calamba, R. Carroll, T. Ferguson, Y. Iiyama, D.W. Jang, Y.F. Liu, M. Paulini, H. Vogel, I. Vorobiev

University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, USA
J.P. Cumalat, B.R. Drell, W.T. Ford, A. Gaz, E. Luiggi Lopez, J.G. Smith, K. Stenson, K.A. Ulmer, S.R. Wagner

Cornell University, Ithaca, USA
J. Alexander, A. Chatterjee, N. Eggert, L.K. Gibbons, B. Heltsley, W. Hopkins, A. Khukhunaishvili, B. Kreis, N. Mirman, G. Nicolas Kaufman, J.R. Patterson, A. Ryd, E. Salvati, W. Sun, W.D. Teo, J. Thom, J. Thompson, J. Tucker, J. Vaughan, Y. Weng, L. Winstrom, P. Wittich

Fairfield University, Fairfield, USA
D. Winn

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, USA
S. Abdullin, M. Albrow, J. Anderson, L.A.T. Bauerdick, A. Beretvas, J. Berryhill, P.C. Bhat, K. Burkett, J.N. Butler, V. Chetluru, H.W.K. Cheung, F. Chlebana, V.D. Elvira, I. Fisk, J. Freeman, Y. Gao, D. Green, O. Gutsche, J. Hanlon, R.M. Harris, J. Hirschauer, B. Hooberman, S. Jindariani, M. Johnson, U. Joshi, B. Klima, S. Kunori, S. Kwan, C. Leonidopoulos[53], J. Linacre, D. Lincoln, R. Lipton, J. Lykken, K. Maeshima, J.M. Marraffino, S. Maruyama, D. Mason, P. McBride, K. Mishra, S. Mrenna, Y. Musienko[54], C. Newman-Holmes, V. O'Dell, O. Prokofyev, E. Sexton-Kennedy, S. Sharma, W.J. Spalding, L. Spiegel, L. Taylor, S. Tkaczyk, N.V. Tran, L. Uplegger, E.W. Vaandering, R. Vidal, J. Whitmore, W. Wu, F. Yang, J.C. Yun

University of Florida, Gainesville, USA
D. Acosta, P. Avery, D. Bourilkov, M. Chen, T. Cheng, S. Das, M. De Gruttola, G.P. Di Giovanni, D. Dobur, A. Drozdetskiy, R.D. Field, M. Fisher, Y. Fu, I.K. Furic, J. Gartner, J. Hugon, B. Kim, J. Konigsberg, A. Korytov, A. Kropivnitskaya, T. Kypreos, J.F. Low, K. Matchev, P. Milenovic[55], G. Mitselmakher, L. Muniz, M. Park, R. Remington, A. Rinkevicius, P. Sellers, N. Skhirtladze, M. Snowball, J. Yelton, M. Zakaria

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

Florida State University, Tallahassee, 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, V. Veeraraghavan, M. Weinberg

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

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Chicago, USA
M.R. Adams, I.M. Anghel, L. Apanasevich, Y. Bai, V.E. Bazterra, R.R. Betts, I. Bucinskaite, J. Callner, R. Cavanaugh, O. Evdokimov, L. Gauthier, C.E. Gerber, D.J. Hofman, S. Khalatyan, F. Lacroix, C. O'Brien, C. Silkworth, D. Strom, P. Turner, N. Varelas

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA
U. Akgun, E.A. Albayrak, B. Bilki[56], W. Clarida, F. Duru, S. Griffiths, J.-P. Merlo, H. Mermerkaya[57], A. Mestvirishvili, A. Moeller, J. Nachtman, C.R. Newsom, E. Norbeck, Y. Onel, F. Ozok[58], S. Sen, P. Tan, E. Tiras, J. Wetzel, T. Yetkin, K. Yi

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA
B.A. Barnett, B. Blumenfeld, S. Bolognesi, D. Fehling, G. Giurgiu, A.V. Gritsan, Z.J. Guo, G. Hu, P. Maksimovic, M. Swartz, A. Whitbeck

The University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA
P. Baringer, A. Bean, G. Benelli, R.P. Kenny Iii, M. Murray, D. Noonan, S. Sanders, R. Stringer, G. Tinti, J.S. Wood

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

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

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

Y. Lu, M. Marionneau, A.C. Mignerey, K. Pedro, A. Peterman, A. Skuja, J. Temple, M.B. Tonjes, S.C. Tonwar

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA
A. Apyan, G. Bauer, J. Bendavid, W. Busza, E. Butz, I.A. Cali, M. Chan, V. Dutta, G. Gomez Ceballos, M. Goncharov, Y. Kim, M. Klute, K. Krajczar[59], A. Levin, 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, D. Velicanu, E.A. Wenger, R. Wolf, B. Wyslouch, M. Yang, Y. Yilmaz, A.S. Yoon, M. Zanetti, V. Zhukova

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA
S.I. Cooper, B. Dahmes, A. De Benedetti, G. Franzoni, A. Gude, S.C. Kao, K. Klapoetke, Y. Kubota, J. Mans, N. Pastika, R. Rusack, M. Sasseville, A. Singovsky, N. Tambe, J. Turkewitz

University of Mississippi, Oxford, USA
L.M. Cremaldi, R. Kroeger, L. Perera, R. Rahmat, D.A. Sanders

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, USA
E. Avdeeva, K. Bloom, S. Bose, D.R. Claes, A. Dominguez, M. Eads, J. Keller, I. Kravchenko, J. Lazo-Flores, S. Malik, G.R. Snow

State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, USA
A. Godshalk, I. Iashvili, S. Jain, A. Kharchilava, A. Kumar, S. Rappoccio

Northeastern University, Boston, USA
G. Alverson, E. Barberis, D. Baumgartel, M. Chasco, J. Haley, D. Nash, T. Orimoto, D. Trocino, D. Wood, J. Zhang

Northwestern University, Evanston, USA
A. Anastassov, K.A. Hahn, A. Kubik, L. Lusito, N. Mucia, 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, A. Brinkerhoff, K.M. Chan, M. Hildreth, C. Jessop, D.J. Karmgard, J. Kolb, K. Lannon, W. Luo, S. Lynch, N. Marinelli, D.M. Morse, T. Pearson, M. Planer, R. Ruchti, J. Slaunwhite, N. Valls, M. Wayne, M. Wolf

The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA
B. Bylsma, L.S. Durkin, C. Hill, R. Hughes, K. Kotov, T.Y. Ling, D. Puigh, M. Rodenburg, C. Vuosalo, G. Williams, B.L. Winer

Princeton University, Princeton, USA
E. Berry, P. Elmer, V. Halyo, P. Hebda, J. Hegeman, A. Hunt, P. Jindal, S.A. Koay, D. Lopes Pegna, P. Lujan, D. Marlow, T. Medvedeva, M. Mooney, J. Olsen, P. Piroué, X. Quan, A. Raval, H. Saka, D. Stickland, C. Tully, J.S. Werner, A. Zuranski

University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, USA
E. Brownson, A. Lopez, H. Mendez, J.E. Ramirez Vargas

Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA
E. Alagoz, V.E. Barnes, D. Benedetti, G. Bolla, D. Bortoletto, M. De Mattia, A. Everett, Z. Hu, M. Jones, O. Koybasi, M. Kress, A.T. Laasanen, N. Leonardo, V. Maroussov, P. Merkel, D.H. Miller, N. Neumeister, I. Shipsey, D. Silvers, A. Svyatkovskiy, M. Vidal Marono, H.D. Yoo, J. Zablocki, Y. Zheng

Purdue University Calumet, Hammond, USA
S. Guragain, N. Parashar

Rice University, Houston, USA
A. Adair, B. Akgun, C. Boulahouache, K.M. Ecklund, F.J.M. Geurts, W. Li, 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, T. Ferbel, A. Garcia-Bellido, P. Goldenzweig, J. Han, A. Harel, D.C. Miner, D. Vishnevskiy, M. Zielinski

The Rockefeller University, New York, USA
A. Bhatti, R. Ciesielski, L. Demortier, K. Goulianos, G. Lungu, S. Malik, C. Mesropian

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Piscataway, USA
S. Arora, A. Barker, J.P. Chou, C. Contreras-Campana, E. Contreras-Campana, D. Duggan, D. Ferencek, Y. Gershtein, R. Gray, E. Halkiadakis, D. Hidas, A. Lath, S. Panwalkar, M. Park, R. Patel, V. Rekovic, J. Robles, K. Rose, S. Salur, S. Schnetzer, C. Seitz, S. Somalwar, R. Stone, S. Thomas, M. Walker

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA
G. Cerizza, M. Hollingsworth, S. Spanier, Z.C. Yang, A. York

Texas A&M University, College Station, USA
R. Eusebi, W. Flanagan, J. Gilmore, T. Kamon[60], V. Khotilovich, R. Montalvo, I. Osipenkov, Y. Pakhotin, A. Perloff, J. Roe, A. Safonov, T. Sakuma, S. Sengupta, I. Suarez, A. Tatarinov, D. Toback

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, USA
N. Akchurin, J. Damgov, C. Dragoiu, P.R. Dudero, C. Jeong, K. Kovitanggoon, S.W. Lee, T. Libeiro, I. Volobouev

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA
E. Appelt, A.G. Delannoy, C. Florez, S. Greene, A. Gurrola, W. Johns, P. Kurt, C. Maguire, A. Melo, M. Sharma, P. Sheldon, B. Snook, S. Tuo, J. Velkovska

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA
M.W. Arenton, M. Balazs, S. Boutle, B. Cox, B. Francis, J. Goodell, R. Hirosky, A. Ledovskoy, C. Lin, C. Neu, J. Wood

Wayne State University, Detroit, USA
S. Gollapinni, R. Harr, P.E. Karchin, C. Kottachchi Kankanamge Don, P. Lamichhane, A. Sakharov

University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA
M. Anderson, D.A. Belknap, L. Borrello, D. Carlsmith, M. Cepeda, S. Dasu, E. Friis, L. Gray, K.S. Grogg, M. Grothe, R. Hall-Wilton, M. Herndon, A. Hervé, P. Klabbers, J. Klukas, A. Lanaro, C. Lazaridis, R. Loveless, A. Mohapatra, I. Ojalvo, F. Palmonari, G.A. Pierro, I. Ross, A. Savin, W.H. Smith, J. Swanson

†: Deceased
1: Also at Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria
2: Also at CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland
3: Also at National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia
4: Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA

5: Also at Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, Ecole Polytechnique, IN2P3-CNRS, Palaiseau, France
6: Also at Suez Canal University, Suez, Egypt
7: Also at Zewail City of Science and Technology, Zewail, Egypt
8: Also at Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt
9: Also at Fayoum University, El-Fayoum, Egypt
10: Also at Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt
11: Also at British University in Egypt, Cairo, Egypt
12: Now at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt
13: Also at National Centre for Nuclear Research, Swierk, Poland
14: Also at Université de Haute-Alsace, Mulhouse, France
15: Also at Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia
16: Also at Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
17: Also at Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus, Germany
18: Also at The University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA
19: Also at Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary
20: Also at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary
21: Also at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research - HECR, Mumbai, India
22: Now at King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
23: Also at University of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India
24: Also at Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran
25: Also at Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran
26: Also at Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran
27: Also at Plasma Physics Research Center, Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran
28: Also at Facoltà Ingegneria, Università di Roma, Roma, Italy
29: Also at Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi, Roma, Italy
30: Also at Università degli Studi di Siena, Siena, Italy
31: Also at University of Bucharest, Faculty of Physics, Bucuresti-Magurele, Romania
32: Also at Faculty of Physics of University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
33: Also at University of California, Los Angeles, USA
34: Also at Scuola Normale e Sezione dell'INFN, Pisa, Italy
35: Also at INFN Sezione di Roma, Roma, Italy
36: Also at University of Athens, Athens, Greece
37: Also at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
38: Also at Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland
39: Also at Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia
40: Also at Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics, Bern, Switzerland
41: Also at Gaziosmanpasa University, Tokat, Turkey
42: Also at Adiyaman University, Adiyaman, Turkey
43: Also at Izmir Institute of Technology, Izmir, Turkey
44: Also at The University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA
45: Also at Mersin University, Mersin, Turkey
46: Also at Ozyegin University, Istanbul, Turkey
47: Also at Kafkas University, Kars, Turkey
48: Also at Suleyman Demirel University, Isparta, Turkey
49: Also at Ege University, Izmir, Turkey
50: Also at School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom
51: Also at INFN Sezione di Perugia; Università di Perugia, Perugia, Italy

52: Also at Utah Valley University, Orem, USA

53: Now at University of Edinburgh, Scotland, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

54: Also at Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia

55: Also at University of Belgrade, Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia

56: Also at Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, USA

57: Also at Erzincan University, Erzincan, Turkey

58: Also at Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey

59: Also at KFKI Research Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, Budapest, Hungary

60: Also at Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea