Search for Diphoton Events with Large Missing Transverse Energy in 7 TeV Proton-Proton Collisions with the ATLAS Detector

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Search for Diphoton Events with Large Missing Transverse Energy in 7 TeV Proton-Proton Collisions with the ATLAS Detector

G. Aad et al.*
(ATLAS Collaboration)

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A search for diphoton events with large missing transverse energy is presented. The data were collected with the ATLAS detector in proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV at the CERN Large Hadron Collider and correspond to an integrated luminosity of 3.1 pb$^{-1}$. No excess of such events is observed above the standard model background prediction. In the context of a specific model with one universal extra dimension and gravity-induced decays, values of $1/R < 729$ GeV are excluded at 95% C. L., providing the most sensitive limit on this model to date.

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In the standard model (SM), the production in proton-proton ($pp$) collisions of diphoton ($\gamma\gamma$) events with large missing transverse energy ($E_T^{\text{miss}}$) is mainly due to $W/Z + \gamma\gamma$ processes. Taking into account the branching ratios of $W/Z$ decays including at least one neutrino, the cross sections are only a few femtobarns for 7 TeV $pp$ collisions. In contrast, some new physics models predict much larger $\gamma\gamma + E_T^{\text{miss}}$ rates. This Letter reports the first $\gamma\gamma + E_T^{\text{miss}}$ search with LHC data, using data recorded with the ATLAS detector. The results are interpreted in the context of a universal extra dimension (UED) model.

UED models [1] postulate the existence of additional spatial dimensions in which all SM particles can propagate, leading to the existence for each SM particle of a series of excitations, known as a Kaluza-Klein (KK) tower. This analysis considers the case of a single TeV$^{-1}$-sized UED, with compactification radius $R$. The masses of the states of successive levels in the tower are separated by $\approx 1/R$. For a given KK level, the approximate mass degeneracy of the KK excitations is broken by radiative corrections [2]. The lightest KK particle (LKP) is the KK photon of the first level, denoted $\gamma^*$. At the LHC, the main UED process would be production via the strong interaction of a pair of first-level KK quarks and/or gluons [3], which would decay via cascades involving other KK particles until reaching the LKP at the end of the decay chain. If the UED model is embedded in a larger space with $N$ additional eV$^{-1}$-sized dimensions accessible only to gravity [4], the LKP could decay gravitationally via $\gamma^* \rightarrow \gamma + G$ [5], where $G$ represents one of a tower of eV-spaced graviton states. With two decay chains per event, the final state would be $\gamma\gamma + E_T^{\text{miss}} + X$, where $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ results from the escaping gravitons and $X$ represents SM particles emitted in the cascade decays.

The UED model considered is defined by specifying $R$ and $\Lambda$, the ultraviolet cutoff used in the calculation of radiative corrections to the KK masses. This analysis treats $R$ as a free parameter and, following the theory calculations [2], sets $\Lambda$ such that $\Delta R = 20$. For $1/R = 700$ GeV, the masses of the first-level KK photon, quark, and gluon are 700, 815, and 865 GeV, respectively [6]. The $\gamma^*$ mass is insensitive to $\Lambda$, while other KK masses change by typically a few percent when varying $\Delta R$ in the range 10–30. The gravitational decay widths of the KK particles are set by $N$ and $M_D$, the Planck scale in the $(4 + N)$-dimensional theory. For the chosen values of $N = 6$ and $M_D = 5$ TeV, and provided $1/R < 1$ TeV, the LKP is the only KK particle to have an appreciable rate of gravitational decay. The same parameter values were used in the only previous study of this model, in which the D0 experiment excluded at 95% C. L. values of $1/R < 477$ GeV [7].

Monte Carlo (MC) signal samples were produced for a range of $1/R$ values using the implementation [6] of the UED model in PYTHIA [8] version 6.421, and using the MC09 parameter tune [9]. The MC samples were processed through the ATLAS detector simulation [10] based on GEANT4 [11]. In addition to the two high transverse energy ($E_T$) photons and large $E_T^{\text{miss}}$, the signal events typically include several high-$E_T$ jets due to the cascade decays, with the $E_T$ spectrum of the leading jet peaking at $\approx 100$ GeV for $1/R = 700$ GeV.

The ATLAS detector [12] is a multipurpose particle physics apparatus with a forward-backward symmetric cylindrical geometry and nearly $4\pi$ solid angle coverage. ATLAS uses a Cartesian right-handed coordinate system, with the nominal collision point at the origin. The anti-clockwise beam direction defines the positive $z$ axis, while the positive $x$ axis points from the collision point to the center of the LHC ring and the positive $y$ axis points upward. The angles $\phi$ and $\theta$ are the azimuthal and polar angles. The pseudorapidity is defined as

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*Full author list given at the end of the article.

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\[ \eta = -\ln(\tan(\theta/2)) \]. Closest to the beam line are tracking detectors which use layers of silicon-based and straw-tube detectors, located inside a thin superconducting solenoid that provides a 2 T magnetic field, to measure the trajectories of charged particles. The solenoid is surrounded by a hermetic calorimeter system. A liquid-argon (LAr) sampling calorimeter is divided into a central barrel calorimeter and two end-cap calorimeters, each housed in a separate cryostat. Fine-grained LAr electromagnetic (EM) calorimeters, with excellent energy resolution, provide coverage for \( |\eta| < 3.2 \). In the region \( |\eta| < 2.5 \), the EM calorimeters are segmented into three longitudinal layers and the second layer, in which most of the EM shower energy is deposited, is divided into cells of granularity of \( \Delta \eta \times \Delta \phi = 0.025 \times 0.025 \). A presampler, covering \( |\eta| < 1.8 \), is used to correct for energy lost upstream of the calorimeter. An iron-scintillator tile calorimeter provides hadronic coverage in the range \( |\eta| < 1.7 \). In the end caps (\(|\eta| > 1.5\)), LAr hadronic calorimeters match the outer \( |\eta| \) limits of the end-cap EM calorimeters. LAr forward calorimeters provide both EM and hadronic energy measurements, and extend the coverage to \( |\eta| < 4.9 \). Outside the calorimeters is an extensive muon system including large superconducting toroidal magnets.

The reconstruction of photons is described in detail in Ref. [13]. To select photon candidates, EM calorimeter clusters were required to pass several quality criteria and to lie outside problematic calorimeter regions. Photon candidates were required to have \( |\eta| < 1.81 \) and to be outside the transition region \( 1.37 < |\eta| < 1.52 \) between the barrel and the end-cap calorimeters. The analysis uses a “loose” photon selection, which includes cuts on the energy in the hadronic calorimeter as well as on variables that require the transverse width of the shower, measured in the second EM calorimeter layer, be consistent with the narrow width expected for an EM shower. The loose selection provides a high photon efficiency with modest rejection against the background from jets.

The reconstruction of \( E_T^{\text{miss}} \) is based on topological calorimeter clusters [14] with \( \eta < 4.5 \) that are seeded by any cell with energy higher than 4 times its noise level. In an iterative procedure, the cluster grows by including all neighboring cells with energy higher than twice the noise, plus all cells neighboring the boundary of this three-dimensional collection. Each cluster is classified as EM or hadronic, depending on its topology, and the cluster energy is calibrated to correct for the noncompensating calorimeter response, energy losses in dead material, and out-of-cluster energies. Events reconstructed with large \( E_T^{\text{miss}} \) were studied in detail with early data [15]. Rare background events with large transverse energies, unrelated to the collision and concentrated in a few cells, due mainly to discharges and noise, have been observed. Cuts were applied to eliminate such backgrounds, rejecting less than 0.05% of the selected events while having a negligible impact on the signal efficiency.

The data sample was collected during stable beam periods of 7 TeV \( pp \) collisions at the LHC, and corresponds to an integrated luminosity of 3.1 pb\(^{-1}\). The events selected had to satisfy a trigger requiring at least one loose photon candidate with \( E_T > 20 \) GeV, and had to contain at least one reconstructed primary vertex consistent with the average beam spot position and with at least three associated tracks. The trigger and vertex requirements are \( \approx 99\% \) efficient for signal MC events. The presence of multiple \( pp \) collisions within the same bunch crossing, known as “pileup,” can be analyzed by examining \( N_{\text{vtx}} \), the number of reconstructed primary vertices in each event. In this data sample, the average value of \( N_{\text{vtx}} \) was \( \approx 2.1 \). The MC signal samples included the simulation of pileup and were weighted to match the \( N_{\text{vtx}} \) distribution observed in data.

Events were retained if they had at least two photon candidates, each with \( E_T > 25 \) GeV. In addition, a photon isolation cut was applied, wherein the \( E_T \) in a radius of 0.2 in the \( \eta \)-\( \phi \) space around the center of the cluster, excluding the cells belonging to the cluster in a region corresponding to \( 5 \times 7 \) cells in \( \eta \times \phi \) in the second layer of the EM calorimeter, had to be less than 35 GeV. This requirement had a signal efficiency greater than 95% but rejected some of the background from multijet events. An event in which each of the two photon candidates satisfied the loose photon cuts was considered a \( \gamma\gamma \) candidate event. An independent “misidentified jet” control sample, enriched in events with jets misidentified as photons, was defined as those events where at least one of the photon candidates did not pass the loose photon identification. After all cuts, the \( \gamma\gamma \) and misidentified jet samples totaled 520 and 7323 events, respectively. Figure 1 shows the \( E_T \) spectrum of the leading photon for the \( \gamma\gamma \) candidates and for UED 1/R = 700 GeV MC events; the UED spectrum extends to much higher \( E_T \) values.

The background was evaluated entirely using data. Noncollision backgrounds, such as cosmic rays and beam-halo events, are reduced to a negligible level by the

![FIG. 1. \( E_T \) spectrum of the leading photon for the \( \gamma\gamma \) candidate sample and for UED 1/R = 700 GeV MC events (normalized to 100 times the leading order (LO) cross section).](121803-2)
selection cuts. The main background source, referred to hereafter as QCD background, arises from a mixture of SM processes including $\gamma\gamma$ production, and $\gamma$ + jet and multijet events with at least one jet misidentified as a photon. With the loose photon identification, it is expected that $\gamma$ + jet and multijet events dominate, with only a small $\gamma\gamma$ contribution. The misidentified jet sample provided a model of the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ response for events with jets faking photons. The response for $\gamma\gamma$ events was modeled using the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ spectrum measured in a high purity sample of $Z \rightarrow ee$ events, selected by a combination of kinematic cuts and electron identification requirements [14]. The $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ spectrum for $Z \rightarrow ee$ events, which is dominated by the calorimeter response to two genuine EM objects, was verified in MC simulations to model the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ response in SM $\gamma\gamma$ processes, despite their kinematic differences. As shown in Fig. 2, $Z \rightarrow ee$ events typically have somewhat lower $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ values than events of the misidentified jet sample, as expected since the presence of jets faking photons should result in a broader $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ distribution. The spectrum for the $\gamma\gamma$ candidates, which for low $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ is dominated by the QCD background with an unknown mixture of events with zero, one, and two fake photons, lies between these two samples. The $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ spectrum of the total QCD background was modeled by a weighted sum of the spectra of the $Z \rightarrow ee$ and misidentified jet samples. The QCD background was normalized to the same number of events as the $\gamma\gamma$ candidate sample in the region $E_T^{\text{miss}} < 20$ GeV, where any UED signal contribution can be neglected. The relative contributions of the $Z \rightarrow ee$ and misidentified jet samples were determined by fitting the QCD background shape to the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ spectrum of the $\gamma\gamma$ candidates in this same low $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ region. The fraction attributed to $\gamma\gamma$ production, as modeled with the $Z \rightarrow ee$ distribution, was determined to be $(36 \pm 22)\%$. The search result is not very sensitive to the exact composition of the QCD background, and the fit error was used to determine systematic uncertainties on the background prediction.

A small additional background results from $W \rightarrow ev$ events, which have genuine $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ and which can pass the selection if the electron is misidentified as a photon and the second photon is either a real photon in $W\gamma$ events or a jet faking a photon in $W +$ jets events. A high purity sample of inclusive $W \rightarrow ev$ events was selected by a combination of kinematic and electron identification cuts [14]. Requiring in addition a loose photon with $E_T^{\gamma} > 25$ GeV, a “$W + \gamma$” sample of only 5 events was selected. Accounting for the probability for an electron to be misidentified as a loose photon, as determined using the $Z \rightarrow ee$ sample, the total background contribution due to $W \rightarrow ev$ events was then estimated to be only $\approx 0.4$ events. Since the number of $W\gamma$ events was too small to measure their $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ spectrum, a sample of $W +$ jets events was used instead, requiring a jet reconstructed with an anti-$k_T$ clustering algorithm [16] with radius parameter 0.4 and $E_T^{\gamma} > 25$ GeV. The $W(\rightarrow ev) +$ jets/$\gamma$ background contribution was then estimated by normalizing the $W +$ jets $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ spectrum to the expected total of $\approx 0.4$ events, as shown on Fig. 2.

Figure 3 shows the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ spectrum of the $\gamma\gamma$ candidates, superimposed on the total background prediction, as well
as example UED signals. Table I summarizes the number of observed $\gamma\gamma$ candidates, as well as the expected backgrounds and example UED signal contributions, in several $E_T^{miss}$ ranges. The QCD background dominates, and falls steeply with rising $E_T^{miss}$, while the $W \rightarrow e\nu$ background is very small, and flatter as a function of $E_T^{miss}$. The UED signals would peak at large values of $E_T^{miss}$. There is good agreement between the data and predicted background over the entire $E_T^{miss}$ range, with no indication of an excess at high $E_T^{miss}$ values.

The signal search region was chosen to be $E_T^{miss} > 75$ GeV, before looking at the data, to obtain the best sensitivity to the UED signal. In the signal region, there are zero observed events, compared to an expectation of $0.32 \pm 0.16$ (stat) $^{+0.37}_{-0.10}$ (syst) background events. The systematic uncertainty was derived by studying variations of the background determination, including varying within its error the $\gamma\gamma$ fraction determined in the fit of the QCD background, varying the definition of the misidentified jet sample, and eliminating the photon isolation cut.

The UED signal efficiency, determined from MC simulations, increases smoothly from $\approx 43\%$ for $1/R = 500$ GeV to $\approx 48\%$ for $1/R = 700$ GeV, with the lower efficiencies for smaller $1/R$ due to the $E_T^{miss} > 75$ GeV definition of the signal region. The various relative systematic uncertainties on the extraction of the UED signal cross section are summarized in Table II, including the dominant $11\%$ uncertainty on the integrated luminosity [17]. Uncertainties on the efficiency for reconstructing and identifying the $\gamma\gamma$ pair arise mainly due to differences between MC simulations and data in the distributions of the photon identification variables, the need to extrapolate to the higher $E_T$ values (see Fig. 1) typical of the UED photons, the impact of the photon quality cuts, varying the scale of the photon $E_T$ cut, and uncertainties in the detailed material composition of the detector. Together these provide a systematic uncertainty of $4\%$. The influence of pileup, evaluated by comparing MC samples with and without pileup, gives a systematic uncertainty of $2\%$. Systematic effects on the $E_T^{miss}$ reconstruction [14], including pileup, varying the cluster energies within the current uncertainties, and varying the expected $E_T^{miss}$ resolution between the measured performance and MC expectations, combine to give a $1\%$ uncertainty on the signal efficiency. Finally, the $1\%$ statistical error on the signal efficiency as determined by MC simulations is treated as a systematic uncertainty on the result. Adding in quadrature, the total systematic uncertainty on the signal yield is $12\%$.

Given the good agreement between the measured $E_T^{miss}$ spectrum and the expected background, a limit was set on $1/R$ in the specific UED model considered here. A Bayesian approach was used to calculate a limit based on the number of observed and expected events with $E_T^{miss} > 75$ GeV. A Poisson distribution was used as the likelihood function for the expected number of signal events, and a flat prior was used for the signal cross section. Log-normal priors were used for the various sources of uncertainty, which were treated as nuisance parameters. It was verified that the result is not very sensitive to the detailed form of the assumed priors. Figure 4 depicts the resulting $95\%$ C.L. upper limit within the context of the UED model considered, together with the LO UED cross section as a function of $1/R$. The LO cross section was used since higher order corrections have not been calculated for the UED model. An uncertainty on the signal cross section due to parton distribution functions (PDF’s) was determined by comparing the predictions using MRST2007 [18] PDF’s with those from the full set of error PDF’s of CTEQ6.6 [19]. The resultant uncertainty, namely $\pm 8\%$ essentially independent of $1/R$, is shown by the width of the theory curve band. The observed $95\%$ C.L. exclusion region is $1/R < 729$ GeV. The result depends weakly on the systematic

TABLE I. The number of observed $\gamma\gamma$ candidates, as well as the SM backgrounds estimated from data and expected UED signal for $1/R$ values of 500 and 700 GeV, given in various $E_T^{miss}$ ranges. The uncertainties are statistical only. The first row, for $E_T^{miss} < 20$ GeV, is the control region used to normalize the QCD background to the number of observed $\gamma\gamma$ candidates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$E_T^{miss}$ range</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Predicted background events</th>
<th>Expected UED signal events</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>events</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>QCD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0–20</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>$465.0 \pm 9.1$</td>
<td>$465.0 \pm 9.1$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20–30</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>$40.5 \pm 2.2$</td>
<td>$40.41 \pm 2.17$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30–50</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$10.3 \pm 1.3$</td>
<td>$10.13 \pm 1.30$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50–75</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$0.93 \pm 0.23$</td>
<td>$0.85 \pm 0.23$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;75</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$0.32 \pm 0.16$</td>
<td>$0.28 \pm 0.15$</td>
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</table>

TABLE II. Relative systematic uncertainties on the expected UED signal yield. For more details, see the text.

<table>
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<th>Source of uncertainty</th>
<th>Uncertainty</th>
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<td>Integrated luminosity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photon reconstruction and identification</td>
<td>$4%$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effect of pileup</td>
<td>$2%$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$E_T^{miss}$ reconstruction and scale</td>
<td>$1%$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signal MC statistics</td>
<td>$1%$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$12%$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
conducted using a result. More of the background from jets, produced a consistent both photons pass tighter identification cuts that reject using a higher purity would change the limit by only a few GeV. A cross-check

diction, as a function of production cross section, and the LO theory cross section pre-

were neglected. Changing the uncertainties, and would only increase to 732 GeV if they were neglected. Changing the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ cut to 60 or 90 GeV would change the limit by only a few GeV. A cross-check using a higher purity $\gamma\gamma$ sample, achieved by requiring that both photons pass tighter identification cuts that reject more of the background from jets, produced a consistent result.

In conclusion, a search for $\gamma\gamma$ events with large $E_T^{\text{miss}}$, conducted using a 3.1 pb$^{-1}$ sample of 7 TeV $pp$ collisions recorded with the ATLAS detector at the LHC, found no evidence of an excess above the SM prediction. The results were used to set limits on a specific model with one UED and gravity-induced LKP decays, excluding at the 95\%C.L. values of $1/R < 729$ GeV, and significantly surpassing the only existing experimental limit [7] on this model.

We wish to thank CERN for the efficient commissioning and operation of the LHC during this initial high-energy data-taking period as well as the support staff from our institutions without whom ATLAS could not be operated efficiently. We acknowledge the support of ANPCyT, Argentina; YerPhI, Armenia; ARC, Australia; BMWF, Austria; ANAS, Azerbaijan; SSTC, Belarus; CNPq and FAPESP, Brazil; NSERC, NRC and CFI, Canada; CERN and the ATLAS Tier-1 facilities at TRIUMF (Canada), NDGF (Denmark, Norway, Sweden), CC-IN2P3 (France), KIT/GridKA (Germany), INFN-CNAF (Italy), NL-T1 (Netherlands), PIC (Spain), ASGC (Taiwan), RAL (UK) and BNL (USA) and in the Tier-2 facilities worldwide.

FIG. 4 (color online). 95\%C.L. upper limits on the UED production cross section, and the LO theory cross section prediction, as a function of $1/R$. The shaded band shows the PDF uncertainty.

uncertainties, and would only increase to 732 GeV if they were neglected. Changing the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ cut to 60 or 90 GeV would change the limit by only a few GeV. A cross-check using a higher purity $\gamma\gamma$ sample, achieved by requiring that both photons pass tighter identification cuts that reject more of the background from jets, produced a consistent result.

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Gaziantep University, Faculty of Engineering, Department of Physics Engineering, 27310, Sehitkamil, Gaziantep, Turkey


K. Wraight, 53  C. Wright, 53  B. Wrona, 73  S. L. Wu, 172  X. Wu, 49  Y. Wu, 32b  E. Wulf, 34  R. Wunstorf, 42  B. M. Wynne, 45


(Atlas Collaboration)
18a University of Bonn, Physikalisches Institut, Nussallee 12, D - 53115 Bonn, Germany

18b Boston University, Department of Physics, 590 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, USA

21 Brandeis University, Department of Physics, MS057, 415 South Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02454, USA

23a University Federal do Rio De Janeiro, COPPE/EE/IF, Caixa Postal 68528, Ilha do Fundao, BR - 21945-970 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

23b Universidade de Sao Paulo, Instituto de Fisica, R do Matao Trav. R 187, Sao Paulo - SP, 05508 - 900, Brazil

24 Brookhaven National Laboratory, Physics Department, Building 510A, Upton, New York 11973, USA

25a National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering Bucharest-Magurele, Str. Atomistilor 407, P.O. Box MG-6, R-077125, Romania

25b University Politehnica Bucharest, Rectorat - AN 001, 313 Splaiul Independentei, sector 6, 060042 Bucharest, Romania

25c West University in Timisoara, Bd. Vasile Parvan 4, Timisoara, Romania

26 Universidad de Buenos Aires, FACEN, Dto. Fisica, Pab I - C. Universitaria, 1428 Buenos Aires, Argentina

27 University of Cambridge, Cavendish Laboratory, J J Thomson Avenue, Cambridge CB3 0HE, United Kingdom

29 CERN, CH - 1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland

30 University of Chicago, Enrico Fermi Institute, 5640 S. Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637, USA

31 Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Facultad de Física, Departamento de Física, Avda. Vicuna Mackenna 4860, San Joaquin, Santiago, Chile

31b Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María, Departamento de Física, Avda. Española 1680, Casilla 110-V, Valparaíso, Chile

32 Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, P.O. Box 918, 19 Yuquan Road, Shijingshan District, CN - Beijing 100049, China

32b University of Science & Technology of China (USTC), Department of Modern Physics, Hefei, CN - Anhui 230026, China

32c Nanjing University, Department of Physics, Nanjing, CN - Jiangsu 210093, China

32d Shandong University, High Energy Physics Group, Jinan, CN - Shandong 250100, China

33 Laboratoire de Physique Corpusculaire, Clermont Université, Université Blaise Pascal, CNRS/IN2P3, FR - 63177 Aubiere Cedex, France

34 Columbia University, Nevis Laboratory, 136 So. Broadway, Irvington, New York 10533, USA

35 University of Copenhagen, Niels Bohr Institute, Blegdamsvej 17, DK - 2100 København 0, Denmark

36 INFN Gruppo Collegato di Cosenza, Cosenza, Italy

36b Università della Calabria, Dipartimento di Fisica, IT-87036 Arcavacata di Rende, Italy

37 Faculty of Physics and Applied Computer Science of the AGH-University of Science and Technology, (FPACS, AGH-UST), al. Mickiewicza 30, PL-30059 Cracow, Poland

38 The Henryk Niewodniczanski Institute of Nuclear Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, ul. Radziwiłowskiego 152, PL - 31342 Krakow, Poland

39 Southern Methodist University, Physics Department, 106 Fondren Science Building, Dallas, Texas 75275-0175, USA

40 University of Texas at Dallas, 800 West Campbell Road, Richardson, Texas 75080-3021, USA

41 DESY, Notkestr. 85, D-22603 Hamburg and Platanenallee 6, D-15738 Zeuthen, Germany

42 TU Dortmund, Experimentelle Physik IV, DE - 44221 Dortmund, Germany

43 Technical University Dresden, Institut für Kern- und Teilchenphysik, Zellescher Weg 19, D-01069 Dresden, Germany

44 Duke University, Department of Physics, Durham, North Carolina 27708, USA

45 University of Edinburgh, School of Physics & Astronomy, James Clerk Maxwell Building, The Kings Buildings, Mayfield Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JZ, United Kingdom

46 Fachhochschule Wiener Neustadt: Johannes Gutenbergstrasse 3 AT - 2700 Wiener Neustadt, Austria

47 INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, via Enrico Fermi 40, IT-00044 Frascati, Italy

48 Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Fakultät für Mathematik und Physik, Hermann-Herder Str. 3, D - 79104 Freiburg i.Br., Germany

49 Université de Genève, Section de Physique, 24 rue Ernest Ansermet, CH - 1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland

50 INFN Sezione di Genova, Genova, Italy

50a Università di Genova, Dipartimento di Fisica, via Dodecaneso 33, IT - 16146 Genova, Italy

51 Institute of Physics of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, 6 Tamaradze Street, GE - 380077 Tbilisi; Tbilisi State University, HEP Institute, University St. 9, GE - 380086 Tbilisi, Georgia

52 Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, II Physikalisches Institut, Heinrich-Buff Ring 16, D-35392 Giessen, Germany

53 University of Glasgow, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Glasgow G12 8QQ, United Kingdom

54 Georg-August-Universität, II. Physikalisches Institut, Friedrich-Hund Platz 1, D-37077 Göttingen, Germany

55 LPSC, CNRS/IN2P3 and Université Joseph Fourier Grenoble, 53 avenue des Martyrs, FR-38026 Grenoble Cedex, France

56 Hampton University, Department of Physics, Hampton, Virginia 23668, USA

57 Harvard University, Laboratory for Particle Physics and Cosmology, 18 Hammond Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, USA

58a Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg: Kirchhoff-Institut für Physik, Im Neuenheimer Feld 227, D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany

58c Physikalisches Institut, Philosophenweg 12, D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany
Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics (BINP), RU - Novosibirsk 630 090, Russia
108 New York University, Department of Physics, 4 Washington Place, New York New York 10003, USA
109 Ohio State University, 191 West Woodruff Ave, Columbus, Ohio 43210-1117, USA
110 Okayama University, Faculty of Science, Tsushima-naka 3-1-1, Okayama 700-8530, Japan
111 University of Oklahoma, Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy, 440 West Brooks, Room 100, Norman, Oklahoma 73019-0225, USA
112 Oklahoma State University, Department of Physics, 145 Physical Sciences Building, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078-3072, USA
113 Palacký University, 17.listopadu 50a, 772 07 Olomouc, Czech Republic
114 University of Oregon, Center for High Energy Physics, Eugene, Oregon 97403-1274, USA
115 LAL, Université Paris-Sud, IN2P3/CNRS, Orsay, France
116 Osaka University, Graduate School of Science, Machikaneyama-machi 1-1, Toyonaka, Osaka 560-0043, Japan
117 University of Oslo, Department of Physics, P.O. Box 1048, Blindern, NO - 0316 Oslo 3, Norway
118 Oxford University, Department of Physics, Denys Wilkinson Building, Keble Road, Oxford OX1 3RH, United Kingdom
119 INFN Sezione di Pavia, Pavia, Italy
120 University of Pennsylvania, Department of Physics, High-Energy Physics Group, 209 S. 33rd Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, USA
121 Petersberg Nuclear Physics Institute, RU - 188 300 Gatchina, Russia
122 INFN Sezione di Pisa, Pisa, Italy
123 University of Pittsburgh, Department of Physics and Astronomy, 3941 O'Hara Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260, USA
124 Laboratorio di Instrumentaco e Fisica Experimental de Particulas - LIP, Avenida Elias Garcia 14-1, PT - 1000-149 Lisbon, Portugal
125 Universidad de Granada, Departamento de Fisica Teorica y del Cosmos and CAFPE, E-18071 Granada, Portugal
126 Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Na Slovance 2, CZ - 18221 Praha 8, Czech Republic
127 Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Institute of Particle and Nuclear Physics, V Holesovickach 2, CZ - 18000 Praha 8, Czech Republic
128 Technical University of Prague, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Institute of Particle and Nuclear Physics, V Holesovickach 2, CZ - 18000 Praha 8, Czech Republic
129 State Research Center Institute for High Energy Physics, Moscow Region, 142281, Protvino, Pobeda Street, 1, Russia
130 University of Regina, Physics Department, Regina, Canada
131 Ritsumeikan University, Noji Higashi 1 chome 1-1, JP - Kusatsu, Shiga 525-8577, Japan
132 INFN Sezione di Roma I, Roma, Italy
133 INFN Sezione di Roma Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy
134 INFN Sezione di Roma Tre, Roma, Italy
135 Università Roma Tre, Dipartimento di Fisica, via della Vasca Navale 84, IT-00146 Roma, Italy
136 Réseau Universitaire de Physique des Hautes Energies (RUPHE): Université Hassan II, Faculté des Sciences Ain Chock, B.P. 5366, MA - Casablanca, Morocco
137 Centre National de l’Energie des Sciences Techniques Nucleaires (CENSTEN), B.P. 1382 R.P. 10001 Rabat 10001, Morocco
138 Université Mohamed Premier, LPTPM, Faculté des Sciences, B.P.717. Bd. Mohamed VI, 60000, Oujda, Morocco
139 Université Mohammed V, Faculté des Sciences 4 Avenue Ibn Battouta, BP 1014 RF, 10000 Rabat, Morocco
140 CEA, DSM/IRFU, Centre d’Etudes de Saclay, FR - 91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France
141 University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics (SCIPP), Santa Cruz, California 95064, USA
142 University of Washington, Seattle, Department of Physics, Box 351560, Seattle, Washington 98195-1560, USA
143 University of Sheffield, Department of Physics & Astronomy, Hounsfield Road, Sheffield S3 7RH, United Kingdom
144 Shinshu University, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, 3-1-1 Asahi, Matsumoto-shi, JP - Nagano 390-8621, Japan
145 Universität Siegen, Fachbereich Physik, D 57068 Siegen, Germany
146 Simon Fraser University, Department of Physics, 8888 University Drive, CA - Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6, Canada
147 SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Stanford, California 94309, USA
148 Comenius University, Faculty of Mathematics, Physics & Informatics, Mlynska dolina F2, SK - 84248 Bratislava, Slovak Republic
149 Institute of Experimental Physics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Department of Subnuclear Physics, Watsonova 47, SK - 04353 Kosice, Slovak Republic
150 University of Johannesburg, Department of Physics, PO Box 524, Auckland Park, Johannesburg 2006, South Africa
151 School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Private Bag 3, Wits 2050, Johannesburg, South Africa, South Africa
152 Stockholm University, Department of Physics, Stockholm, Sweden
153 The Oskar Klein Centre, AlbaNova, SE - 106 91 Stockholm, Sweden
154 Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Physics Department, SE - 106 91 Stockholm, Sweden
155 Stony Brook University, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Nicolls Road, Stony Brook, New York 11794-3800, USA

121803-17
f Also at Faculty of Physics and Applied Computer Science of the AGH-University of Science and Technology, (FPACS, AGH-UST), al. Mickiewicza 30, PL-30059 Cracow, Poland.
g Also at University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal.
h Also at Università di Napoli Parthenope, Napoli, Italy.
i Also at Institute of Particle Physics (IPP), Canada.
j Also at Louisiana Tech University, 305 Wisteria Street, P.O. Box 3178, Ruston, LA 71272, USA.
k Also at California State University, Fresno, Department of Physics, USA.
l Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA.
m Also at University of Montreal, Group of Particle Physics, C.P. 6128, Succursale Centre-Ville, Montreal, Quebec, H3C 3J7, Canada.
 Also at Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, H. Javid Avenue 33, AZ 143 Baku, Azerbaijan.
o Also at Institut für Experimentalphysik, Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany.
p Also at Manhattan College, New York, USA.
q Also at School of Physics and Engineering, Sun Yat-sen University, Guanzhou, China.
\( f \) Also at Academia Sinica Grid Computing, Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, No.128, Sec. 2, Academia Road, Nankang, Taipei, Taiwan 11529.
\( g \) Also at Shandong University, High Energy Physics Group, Jinan, CN - Shandong 250100, China.
\( h \) Also at Departamento de Física, Universidade de Minho, Braga, Portugal.
\( i \) Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, 700 S. Main St, Columbia, SC 29208, USA.
\( j \) Also at KFKI Research Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, Budapest, Hungary.
\( k \) Also at Institute of Physics, Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland.
\( l \) Also at Oxford University, Department of Physics, Denys Wilkinson Building, Keble Road, Oxford OX1 3RH, United Kingdom.
\( m \) Also at CEA, DSM/IRFU, Centre d’Etudes de Saclay, FR - 91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France.
\( n \) Also at Laboratoire de Physique Nucléaire et de Hautes Energies, Université Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris 6), Université Denis Diderot (Paris-7), CNRS/IN2P3, Tour 33, 4 place Jussieu, FR - 75252 Paris Cedex 05, France.
\( o \) Also at Nanjing University, Department of Physics, Nanjing, CN - Jiangsu 210093, China.