



Strange hadron production in pp and pPb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02 \text{ TeV}$

The CMS Collaboration*

Abstract

The transverse momentum (p_T) distributions of Λ , Ξ^- , and Ω^- baryons, their antiparticles, and K_S^0 mesons are measured in proton-proton (pp) and proton-lead (pPb) collisions at a nucleon-nucleon center-of-mass energy of 5.02 TeV over a broad rapidity range. The data, corresponding to integrated luminosities of 40.2 nb^{-1} and $15.6 \mu\text{b}^{-1}$ for pp and pPb collisions, respectively, were collected by the CMS experiment. The nuclear modification factor R_{pPb} , defined as the ratio of the particle yield in pPb collisions and a scaled pp reference, is measured for each particle. A strong dependence on particle species is observed in the p_T range from 2 to 7 GeV, where R_{pPb} for K_S^0 is consistent with unity, while an enhancement ordered by strangeness content and/or particle mass is observed for the three baryons. In pPb collisions, the strange hadron production is asymmetric about the nucleon-nucleon center-of-mass rapidity. Enhancements, which depend on the particle type, are observed in the direction of the Pb beam. The results are compared to predictions from EPOS LHC, which includes parametrized radial flow. The model is in qualitative agreement with the R_{pPb} data, but fails to describe the dependence on particle species in the yield asymmetries measured away from mid-rapidity in pPb collisions.

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1 Introduction

The transverse momentum (p_T) distributions of the particles produced in high-energy nuclear collisions can provide insights into the nature of the produced hot and dense matter, known as the quark-gluon plasma (QGP), and its dynamical evolution. Comparisons of the p_T spectra of hadrons produced in proton-proton (pp), proton-nucleus (pA), and nucleus-nucleus (AB) collisions are often used to elucidate the QGP properties. The many physical processes that contribute to hadron production involve distinct energy scales, and therefore dominate different ranges in the p_T distributions in various collision systems. In heavy ion collisions, hadrons with $p_T \lesssim 2$ GeV typically reflect the properties of the bulk system, such as the temperature at freeze-out, hadro-chemical composition, and collective expansion velocity. Measurements of identified hadrons at low p_T can be used to extract these properties [1–6].

At high p_T ($\gtrsim 8$ GeV), particles are primarily produced through fragmentation of partons that have participated in a hard scattering involving a large momentum transfer. In AB collisions that create a QGP, these partons might lose energy traversing the medium, which would result in suppression of high- p_T hadron production. The suppression is quantified by the nuclear modification factor, R_{AB} , defined as the ratio of particle yields in AB collisions to those in pp collisions, scaled by the average number of binary nucleon-nucleon collisions, $\langle N_{\text{coll}} \rangle$, in the AB collisions:

$$R_{AB}(p_T) = \frac{dN^{AB}/dp_T}{\langle N_{\text{coll}} \rangle dN^{\text{pp}}/dp_T} = \frac{dN^{AB}/dp_T}{\langle T_{AB} \rangle d\sigma^{\text{pp}}/dp_T}. \quad (1)$$

The ratio of $\langle N_{\text{coll}} \rangle$ with the total inelastic pp cross section σ^{pp} , defined as $\langle T_{AB} \rangle = \langle N_{\text{coll}} \rangle / \sigma^{\text{pp}}$, is known as the nuclear overlap function. Both $\langle N_{\text{coll}} \rangle$ and $\langle T_{AB} \rangle$ can be calculated from a Glauber model of the nuclear collision geometry [7].

In the intermediate p_T region ($2 \lesssim p_T \lesssim 8$ GeV), the dominant particle production mechanism switches from soft processes to hard scattering. For a given particle species, this transition may happen in a momentum range that depends on the mass of the particle and on its quark composition. Particles of greater mass are boosted to larger transverse momentum because of radial flow (common velocity field for all particles) [8], and baryon production may be enhanced ($R_{AB} > 1$) as a result of hadronization by recombination [9–11]. In addition, there are several initial-state effects that can result in $R_{AB} \neq 1$. Momentum broadening from multiple scattering of projectile partons by the target nucleus before undergoing a hard scattering [12, 13] can cause an enhancement. Alternatively, nuclear shadowing [14], i.e., suppression of the parton distribution functions in the nucleus relative to those in the proton in the small parton fractional momentum range ($x < 0.01$), can lead to suppression in hadron production. The study of nuclear modification factors over a broad momentum range and for multiple particle species is a valuable tool for disentangling different effects and for constraining theoretical models.

Traditionally, pA and deuteron-nucleus (dA) collisions have been considered as reference systems that do not produce a hot QCD medium [15–18], and therefore would only carry information about cold nuclear matter initial-state effects. However, in the last few years there have been extensive studies of two- and multi-particle azimuthal correlations in high-multiplicity pp and pPb collisions at the LHC [19–22], which indicate collective behavior similar to that observed in heavy ion collisions, where it is attributed to collective flow in the QGP. Recent measurements from RHIC use high-multiplicity pAu [23], dAu [24], and $^3\text{HeAu}$ collisions [25] to study the effects of the initial geometry on the final-state particle correlations. They find that hydrodynamic models that include short-lived QGP droplets provide simultaneous quantitative description of the measurements [26]. Additionally, measurements of strange-particle production by the ALICE Collaboration [27, 28] indicate strangeness enhancement in pPb and

high-multiplicity pp collisions—a signature that has long been considered an important indication of QGP formation [29]. Measurements of low p_T spectra of strange particles produced in high multiplicity small-system collisions [27, 30] are consistent with the presence of radial flow [31]. On the other hand, jet quenching is not observed at high p_T in pPb collisions [32–36]. Thus, further studies of the rapidity and p_T dependence of strange-particle production from low to high p_T can provide significant information on the nature of the QCD medium produced in small systems.

In pPb collisions, radial flow, nuclear shadowing, and multiple scattering are all expected to have different effects on particle production in the forward (p-going) and backward (Pb-going) rapidity regions. Radial flow is expected to be greater in the Pb-going than the p-going direction and therefore to produce a stronger mass dependence on the Pb-going side [37, 38]. The effect of nuclear shadowing is expected to be more prominent in the p-going direction, where smaller x fractions are accessed in the nucleus. This should result in larger R_{pPb} values in the Pb-going as compared to the p-going direction.

The effect of parton multiple scattering is not completely understood, and has been shown to depend on multiple factors, e.g., whether the scatterings are elastic, inelastic, coherent or incoherent [12, 39]. These predictions can be tested with measurements of R_{pPb} in the p- and Pb-going directions separately, and of the particle yield rapidity asymmetry Y_{asym} in pPb collisions, where

$$Y_{\text{asym}}(p_T) = \frac{d^2N(p_T)/dy_{\text{CM}}dp_T|_{y_{\text{CM}} \in [-b, -a]}}{d^2N(p_T)/dy_{\text{CM}}dp_T|_{y_{\text{CM}} \in [a, b]}}. \quad (2)$$

Here, y_{CM} is the rapidity computed in the center-of-mass frame of the colliding nucleons, a and b are always non-negative and, by definition, refer to the proton beam direction.

This paper presents measurements of strange hadron p_T spectra at $|y_{\text{CM}}| < 1.8$, $-1.8 < y_{\text{CM}} < 0$, and $0 < y_{\text{CM}} < 1.8$ in pp and pPb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02$ TeV. These measurements are shown for the K_S^0 and the sum of $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$, $\Xi^- + \bar{\Xi}^+$, and $\Omega^- + \bar{\Omega}^+$ (hereafter referred to as Λ , Ξ^- , and Ω^- , respectively). Based on these spectra, R_{pPb} for each particle species is studied as a function of p_T in the three rapidity ranges above. Because of limitations in the size of the data sample, the R_{pPb} of the Ω^- baryon is studied in the range $|y_{\text{CM}}| < 1.8$. To study the rapidity dependence in strange hadron production in pPb collisions, the K_S^0 and Λ spectra are measured in several additional rapidity ranges. The Y_{asym} is evaluated for $0.3 < |y_{\text{CM}}| < 0.8$, $0.8 < |y_{\text{CM}}| < 1.3$, and $1.3 < |y_{\text{CM}}| < 1.8$. The results are compared to predictions from the EPOS LHC model, which includes collective flow in pp and pPb collisions.

2 The CMS detector

The central feature of the CMS apparatus is a superconducting solenoid of 6 m internal diameter, providing a magnetic field of 3.8 T. Within the solenoid volume are a silicon pixel and strip tracker, a lead tungstate crystal electromagnetic calorimeter, and a brass and scintillator hadron calorimeter (HCAL), each composed of a barrel and two endcap sections. Forward calorimeters extend the pseudorapidity (η) coverage provided by the barrel and endcap detectors. The silicon tracker measures charged particles within the range $|\eta| < 2.5$. It consists of 1440 silicon pixel and 15 148 silicon strip detector modules. The pixel detector comprises 3 barrel layers and 2 forward disks on each side of the interaction point. For nonisolated particles of $1 < p_T < 10$ GeV and $|\eta| < 1.4$, the track resolutions are typically 1.5% in p_T and 25–90 (45–150) μm in the transverse (longitudinal) impact parameter [40]. The forward hadron (HF) calorimeter uses steel as an absorber and quartz fibers as the sensitive material. The two halves

of the HF are located 11.2 m from the interaction region, one on each end, and together they provide coverage in the range $3.0 < |\eta| < 5.2$. A more detailed description of the CMS detector, together with a definition of the coordinate system used and the relevant kinematic variables, can be found in Ref. [41]. The Monte Carlo (MC) simulation of the particle propagation and detector response is based on the GEANT4 [42] program.

3 Data samples and event selection

Minimum bias (MB) pp and pPb data used in this analysis were collected in 2015 and 2013 at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02$ TeV, corresponding to integrated luminosities of 40.2 nb^{-1} and $15.6 \mu\text{b}^{-1}$, respectively. In pPb collisions, the beam energies were 4 TeV for protons and 1.58 TeV per nucleon for lead nuclei. The data were collected in two different run conditions: one with the protons circulating in the clockwise direction in the LHC ring, and one with them circulating in the counterclockwise direction. By convention, the proton beam rapidity is taken to be positive when combining the data from the two run configurations. Because of the asymmetric beam conditions, the nucleon-nucleon center-of-mass in the pPb collisions moves with speed $\beta = 0.434$ in the laboratory frame. As a consequence, a massless particle emitted at $y_{\text{CM}} = 0$ will be detected at a rapidity of 0.465 in the laboratory frame.

The triggers and event selections are the same as those discussed for pp collisions in Refs. [43, 44], requiring one energy deposit above the readout threshold of 3 GeV on either side of the HF calorimeters. The MB pPb events are triggered by requiring at least one reconstructed track with $p_{\text{T}} > 0.4$ GeV in the pixel detector.

In the subsequent analysis of both collision systems, events are selected by requiring at least one reconstructed collision vertex with two or more associated tracks. All vertices are required to be within 15 cm of the nominal interaction point along the beam axis and 0.15 cm transverse to the beam axis direction. Beam-related background is suppressed by rejecting events in which less than 25% of all reconstructed tracks satisfy the high-purity selection defined in Ref. [40]. In addition, having at least one HF calorimeter tower on each side of the HF with more than 3 GeV of total energy is required for pPb collisions to further remove background events. There is a 3% probability to have at least one additional interaction in the same bunch crossing (pileup) in the pPb data sample. The procedure used to reject pileup events in pPb collisions is described in Ref. [20]. It is based on the number of tracks associated with each reconstructed vertex and the distance between different vertices. The pileup-rejection efficiency is found to be $92 \pm 2\%$, which is confirmed using a low pileup data sample. The average pileup (the mean of the Poisson distribution of the number of collisions per bunch crossing) is approximately 0.9 in pp collisions. Following the same procedure as in Ref. [43], all the reconstructed vertices are selected to extract the pp strange-particle spectra. The pp integrated luminosity [45] is used to normalize the spectrum in pp collisions.

The PYTHIA 8.209 generator [46] with the underlying event tune CUETP8M1 [47] is used to simulate the selection efficiency in pp collisions. The efficiency to identify inelastic events is 95%. For pPb collisions, the selection efficiency is estimated with respect to a detector-independent class of collisions termed “double-sided” (DS) events, which are very similar to those that pass the HF selection criteria described above. A DS event is defined as a collision producing at least one particle of lifetime $c\tau > 10^{-18}$ m with energy $E > 3$ GeV in the region $3 < \eta < 5$, and another such particle in the region $-5 < \eta < -3$. In a simulated sample of pPb DS events produced using version 1.383 [48] of the HIJING MC generator [49], the above selection has a 99% selection efficiency. A similar study using the EPOS LHC generator shows less than 1% dif-

ference. In MC samples produced by EPOS LHC and HIJING, DS events correspond to 94–97% of the hadronic inelastic pPb collisions. A procedure similar to that in Refs. [36, 43] is used to correct the strange-particle spectra in pp and pPb collisions to spectra for inelastic collisions and DS events, respectively, with multiplicity-dependent correction factors. The values of R_{pPb} will decrease by 3-6% if the normalization of the pPb spectra are corrected for the efficiency of detecting inelastic collisions instead of DS events.

4 Particle reconstruction and yields

The K_S^0 , Λ , Ξ^- , and Ω^- candidates in this paper are identified and analyzed following the procedure used in previous analyses [30, 50]. The K_S^0 and Λ (generally referred to as V^0) candidates are reconstructed via their decay topology by combining pairs of oppositely charged tracks that are displaced from the primary vertex to define a secondary vertex. The mass ranges are indicated by the horizontal axes of Fig. 1. In the K_S^0 reconstruction, the two tracks are assumed to be pions. For Λ reconstruction, the track with lower momentum is assumed to be a pion, while the one with higher momentum is assumed to be a proton. To optimize the reconstruction of V^0 particles, requirements are applied to the three-dimensional (3D) distance of closest approach (DCA) significance of the V^0 decay products with respect to the primary vertex. This significance, defined as the 3D DCA between the decay products and the primary vertex divided by its uncertainty, must be larger than 2 for both daughter tracks. To further reduce the background from random combinations of tracks, the 3D DCA significance of the V^0 candidates with respect to the primary vertex cannot exceed 2.5. Because of the long lifetime of the V^0 particles, the 3D decay length significance, which is the 3D distance between the primary and V^0 vertices divided by its uncertainty, must be larger than 3. To remove K_S^0 candidates misidentified as Λ particles, the Λ candidate mass assuming both tracks to be pions must differ from the nominal K_S^0 mass value [51] by more than 20 MeV. A similar procedure is done to remove Λ candidates misidentified as K_S^0 particles. To remove photon conversions to an electron-positron pair, the V^0 candidate mass must exceed 15 MeV if the tracks are both assumed to have the electron mass.

For the Ξ^- and Ω^- baryon reconstruction, a previously reconstructed Λ candidate is combined with an additional charged track carrying the correct charge sign, to define a common secondary vertex. This track is assumed to be a pion (kaon) in Ξ^- (Ω^-) reconstruction. Since the Λ candidate in the reconstruction of Ξ^- and Ω^- is a secondary particle, the 3D separation significance between the Λ candidate vertex and the primary vertex is required to be larger than 10. Additionally, the 3D DCA significance requirement for the pion track from the Λ candidate is increased from 2 to 3, and this has the effect of reducing the background in the reconstruction of Ξ^- and Ω^- . The 3D DCA significance of a pion (kaon) track from the Ξ^- (Ω^-) baryon decay with respect to the primary vertex is required to be larger than 4. To ensure that the reconstructed Ξ^- and Ω^- candidates are primary particles, their 3D DCA significance with respect to the primary vertex is required to be less than 3.

The invariant mass distributions of reconstructed K_S^0 , Λ , Ξ^- , and Ω^- candidates in the range $|y_{CM}| < 1.8$ are shown in Fig. 1 for pPb events. Prominent mass peaks are visible, with little background. The solid lines show the results of a maximum likelihood fit. In this fit, each strange-particle mass peak is modeled using a sum of two Gaussian functions with a common mean. The “average σ ” values in Fig. 1 are the square root of the weighted average of the variances of the two Gaussian functions. The background is modeled using a quadratic function for the K_S^0 mesons, and with the analytic form Cq^D for the baryons to mimic the available phase space volume, where q is the difference between the mass of the mother candidate and

the sum of the assumed two daughter track masses, and C and D are free parameters. These fit functions are found to provide a reasonable description of the signal and background with relatively few free parameters. The fits are performed over the mass ranges indicated by the limits of the horizontal axes in each panel of Fig. 1 to obtain the raw strange-particle yields $N_{K_S^0/\Lambda/\Xi^-/\Omega^-}^{\text{raw}}$.

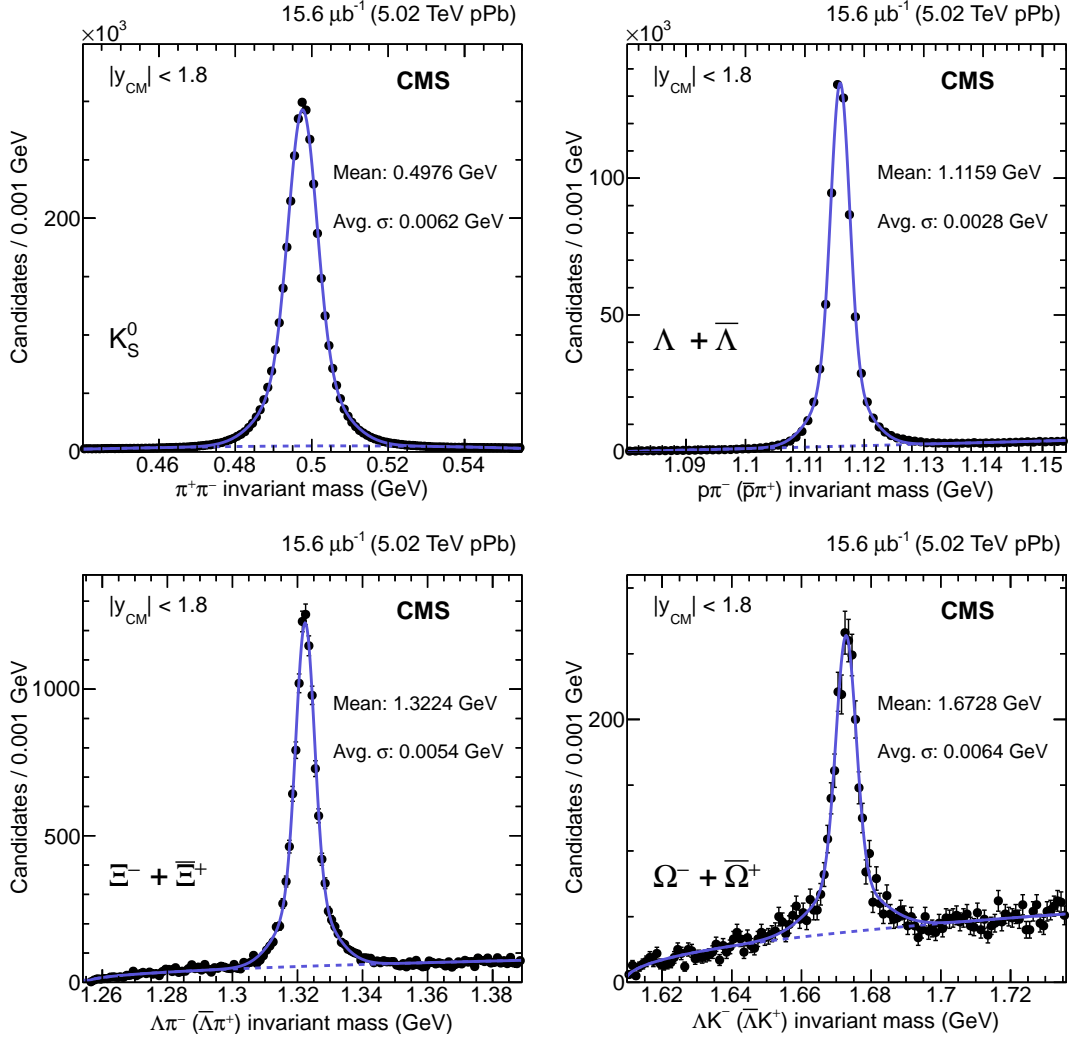


Figure 1: Invariant mass distribution of K_S^0 (upper left), $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$ (upper right), $\Xi^- + \bar{\Xi}^+$ (lower left), and $\Omega^- + \bar{\Omega}^+$ (lower right) candidates within $|y_{\text{CM}}| < 1.8$ in pPb collisions. The solid lines show the results of fits described in the text. The dashed lines indicate the fitted background component.

The raw strange-particle yield is corrected for the branching fraction (B), acceptance (α), and reconstruction efficiency (ϵ), using simulations based on the EPOS LHC event generator [38] and a GEANT4 model of the CMS detector. The corrected yield, $N_{K_S^0/\Lambda/\Xi^-/\Omega^-}^{\text{corr}}$, is given by

$$N_{K_S^0/\Lambda/\Xi^-/\Omega^-}^{\text{corr}} = \frac{N_{K_S^0/\Lambda/\Xi^-/\Omega^-}^{\text{raw}}}{B \alpha \epsilon}, \quad (3)$$

where $B \alpha \epsilon$ is obtained by the ratio of reconstructed yield to generated yield of prompt strange particles in MC simulations. The corrections are obtained separately in each rapidity range

under study.

The raw Λ particle yield also contains a contribution from decays of Ξ^- and Ω^- particles. This “nonprompt” contribution is largely determined by the relative ratio of Ξ^- to Λ yield since the contribution from Ω^- particles is negligible. While stringent requirements on the significance of the 3D DCA for the Λ candidates with respect to the primary vertex remove a large fraction of nonprompt Λ candidates, up to 4% of the Λ candidates from simulations are found to be nonprompt at intermediate p_T . The method used to account for the nonprompt Λ contribution is the same as in the previous analysis [30]. If the ratio of Ξ^- to Λ yield is modeled precisely in MC generators, contamination of nonprompt Λ particles will be eliminated in the correction procedure using Eq. (3). Otherwise, an additional correction for the residual effect is necessary. As the Ξ^- particle yields are explicitly measured in this analysis, this residual correction factor can be derived from data as:

$$f_{\Lambda, np}^{\text{residual}} = 1 + f_{\Lambda, np}^{\text{raw, MC}} \left(\frac{N_{\Xi^-}^{\text{corr}} / N_{\Lambda}^{\text{corr}}}{N_{\Xi^-}^{\text{MC}} / N_{\Lambda}^{\text{MC}}} - 1 \right), \quad (4)$$

where $f_{\Lambda, np}^{\text{raw, MC}}$ denotes the fraction of nonprompt Λ candidates in the reconstructed sample, and is obtained from MC simulation. The $N_{\Xi^-}^{\text{corr}} / N_{\Lambda}^{\text{corr}}$ and $N_{\Xi^-}^{\text{MC}} / N_{\Lambda}^{\text{MC}}$ terms are the Ξ^- -to- Λ ratios from the data after applying corrections in Eq. (3), and from generator-level MC simulations, respectively. The final measured Λ particle yield is given by $N_{\Lambda}^{\text{corr}} / f_{\Lambda, np}^{\text{residual}}$. Based on studies using EPOS LHC, which has a similar Ξ^- -to- Λ ratio to the data, the residual nonprompt contributions to Λ yields are found to be negligible. Note that $N_{\Lambda}^{\text{corr}}$ used in Eq. (4) is first derived using Eq. (3), which in principle contains the residual nonprompt Λ contributions. Therefore, by applying Eq. (4) in an iterative fashion, $N_{\Lambda}^{\text{corr}}$ will approach a result corresponding to prompt Λ particles. A second iteration of the correction procedure was found to have an effect of less than 0.1% of the Λ baryon yield, and hence was not pursued. The nonprompt contributions to Ξ^- and Ω^- baryon yields are found to be negligible, since the absolute yields and branching ratios of the hadrons that feed into them are much smaller than those for Λ baryons.

5 Systematic uncertainties

The dominant sources of systematic uncertainty are associated with the strange-particle reconstruction, especially the efficiency determination. Tables 1 and 2 summarize the sources of systematic uncertainties in the K_S^0 , Λ , Ξ^- , and Ω^- p_T spectra, R_{pPb} , and Y_{asym} for different y_{CM} ranges in both pp and pPb collisions.

The systematic uncertainty from the yield extraction is evaluated with different background fit functions and methods for extracting the yields. The background fit function is varied to a third-order polynomial for the systematic studies. The yields are compared between integrating over the signal functions and counting the yield from the signal region of the histograms. On the basis of these studies, systematic uncertainties of 0–4% are assigned to the yields. Systematic effects related to the selection of the strange-particle candidates are evaluated by varying the selection criteria, resulting in an uncertainty of 1–6%. The impact of finite momentum resolution on the spectra is estimated using the EPOS LHC event generator. Specifically, the generator-level p_T spectra of the strange particles are smeared by the momentum resolution, which is determined from the momentum difference between the generator-level and the matched reconstructed-level particles. The difference between the smeared and original spectra is less than 1%. The systematic uncertainty in determining the efficiency of a single track

Table 1: Summary of different sources of systematic uncertainties in K_S^0 , Λ , Ξ^- , and Ω^- p_T spectra and R_{pPb} measurements for different y_{CM} ranges in both pp and pPb collisions. The ranges quoted cover both the p_T and the rapidity dependence of the uncertainties.

| Source | K_S^0 (%) | Λ (%) | Ξ^- (%) | Ω^- (%) |
|--|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| Yield extraction | 0–2 | 0–4 | 2 | 3 |
| Selection criteria | 1–4 | 1–5 | 3 | 6 |
| Momentum resolution | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Tracking efficiency | 8 | 8 | 12 | 12 |
| Feed-down correction | — | 2–3 | — | — |
| Pileup effect (pp only) | 1–2.3 | 1–2 | 3 | 3 |
| Beam direction (pPb only) | 1–4 | 1–5 | 3 | 4 |
| Integrated lum. (pp only) | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| $\langle T_{pPb} \rangle$ (for R_{pPb}) | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 |
| Total (yields in pp coll.) | 8.6–9.3 | 8.9–10.6 | 13.1 | 14.3 |
| Total (yields in pPb coll.) | 8.2–10.1 | 8.6–12.3 | 13.8 | 15.1 |
| Total (R_{pPb}) | 3.1–5.6 | 4.3–10.4 | 6.8 | 10.8 |

Table 2: Summary of systematic uncertainties in the Y_{asym} measurements in pPb collisions. The ranges quoted cover both the p_T and the rapidity dependence of the uncertainties. Because of limitations in the size of the data sample, the Y_{asym} of Ξ^- and Ω^- are not presented.

| Source | K_S^0 (%) | Λ (%) |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Yield extraction | — | 0–3 |
| Selection criteria | 1–5 | 1–6 |
| Momentum resolution | 1 | 1 |
| Feed-down correction | — | 2–3 |
| Beam direction | 2–4 | 2–6 |
| Total (Y_{asym}) | 2.4–6.5 | 3.2–9.3 |

is 4% [52]. The tracking efficiency is strongly correlated with the lifetime of a particle, because when and where a particle decays determine how efficiently the detector captures its decay products. We observe agreement of the strange particle lifetime distribution ($c\tau$) between data and simulation, which provides a cross-check. This translates into a systematic uncertainty in the reconstruction efficiency of 8% for the K_S^0 and Λ particles, and 12% for the Ξ^- and Ω^- particles. The systematic uncertainty associated with a feed-down effect for the Λ candidate spectra is evaluated through propagation of the systematic uncertainty in the $N_{\Xi^-}^{\text{corr}}/N_{\Lambda}^{\text{corr}}$ ratio in Eq. (4) to the $f_{\Lambda, \text{np}}^{\text{residual}}$ factor, and is found to be 2–3%. Systematic uncertainty introduced by pileup effects for pp data is estimated to be 1–3%. This uncertainty is evaluated through the comparison of strange-particle spectra between data with low and high pileup. The uncertainty associated with pileup is negligible for the pPb data. In pPb collisions, the direction of the p and Pb beams were reversed during the course of the data collection. A comparison of the particle p_T spectra in both data periods yields an uncertainty of 1–5%. The uncertainty in the integrated luminosity for pp collisions is 2.3% [45]. As in Ref. [36], the uncertainty in $\langle T_{pPb} \rangle$ is 4.8%.

Since the same tracking algorithm is used in the pp and pPb data reconstruction, the uncertainties in the tracking efficiency largely cancel in the R_{pPb} ratio and are negligible compared to other sources of systematic uncertainty, which are uncorrelated between the two collision systems and are summed in quadrature. The overall uncertainty in R_{pPb} for the different parti-

cle species are listed in the bottom row of Table 1. These numbers exclude the luminosity and $\langle T_{pPb} \rangle$ uncertainties, which are common to all data points and are shown separately in Figs. 3 and 4.

The uncertainties in Y_{asym} are evaluated in a similar way as for the particle spectra, but the effects of the different sources of uncertainty are considered directly in the values of Y_{asym} . The tracking efficiency largely cancels in the ratio, while the effects from the detector acceptance are accounted for by comparing the data sets taken with different beam directions. The remaining uncertainties are uncorrelated and are summed up in quadrature, as detailed in Table 2.

6 Results

6.1 Transverse momentum spectra and nuclear modification factor

The invariant p_T -differential spectra of K_S^0 , Λ , Ξ^- , and Ω^- particles with $|y_{\text{CM}}| < 1.8$, $-1.8 < y_{\text{CM}} < 0$, and $0 < y_{\text{CM}} < 1.8$ in pp and pPb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02$ TeV are presented in Fig. 2. For R_{pPb} calculations, the pp spectrum is measured as a differential cross section with normalization determined from the integrated luminosity. In order to convert the cross-section to a per-event yield for comparison on the same figure, it is divided by 70 ± 5 mb [43, 51], which corresponds to the total inelastic pp cross section. To compare the strange-particle spectra in pp and pPb collisions directly, the spectra in pPb collisions are divided by the average number of binary nucleon-nucleon collisions, $\langle N_{\text{coll}} \rangle = 6.9 \pm 0.5$, which is obtained from a Glauber MC simulation [7].

With the efficiency-corrected strange-particle spectra, the R_{pPb} values of K_S^0 , Λ , Ξ^- , and Ω^- particles are calculated in different y_{CM} ranges. Figure 3 shows the R_{pPb} of each particle species at $|y_{\text{CM}}| < 1.8$. The R_{pPb} values of K_S^0 are consistent with unity for $p_T > 2$ GeV. For baryons, the R_{pPb} of both Λ and Ξ^- reach unity for p_T somewhere between 7 and 8 GeV. This is consistent with the charged-particle R_{pPb} [36], which also shows no modification in the p_T range from 7 to 20 GeV. In the intermediate p_T range from 2 to 7 GeV, an enhancement with clear mass and strangeness-content ordering is observed for baryons with the greater mass and strangeness corresponding to larger R_{pPb} . The observed mass ordering is consistent with expectations from the radial-flow effect in hydrodynamic models [38]. The predictions from EPOS LHC, including collective flow in pp and pPb collisions, are compared to data in Fig. 3. The calculations indeed predict clear mass ordering for baryon R_{pPb} in this p_T range, with even stronger mass dependence than observed in data. At higher p_T , R_{pPb} of K_S^0 and Λ calculated from the EPOS LHC model is markedly smaller than the data because of the strong screening in nuclear collisions in EPOS LHC. This screening is needed to reduce the number of binary collisions in the initial state in order to produce the correct multiplicity [38]. It is not clear from current measurements whether effects from recombination play a role. This can be addressed by studies that include identified baryons and mesons with similar masses, such as the measurements of proton and ϕ meson R_{dAu} at RHIC [53]. In order to fully understand particle production in this p_T range, more theoretical calculations including the recombination models are needed. For p_T values less than 2 GeV, the predicted R_{pPb} values from the EPOS LHC model qualitatively agree with the experimental results for each of the particle species. In this p_T range, R_{pPb} for K_S^0 and Λ become less than unity, as expected for soft particle production.

The R_{pPb} values of K_S^0 , Λ , and Ξ^- particles for $-1.8 < y_{\text{CM}} < 0$ and $0 < y_{\text{CM}} < 1.8$ are presented as functions of p_T in Fig. 4. Because of the limitations in the size of the data sample, the R_{pPb} of the Ω^- baryon is not shown in the p- and Pb-going direction separately. Above $p_T >$

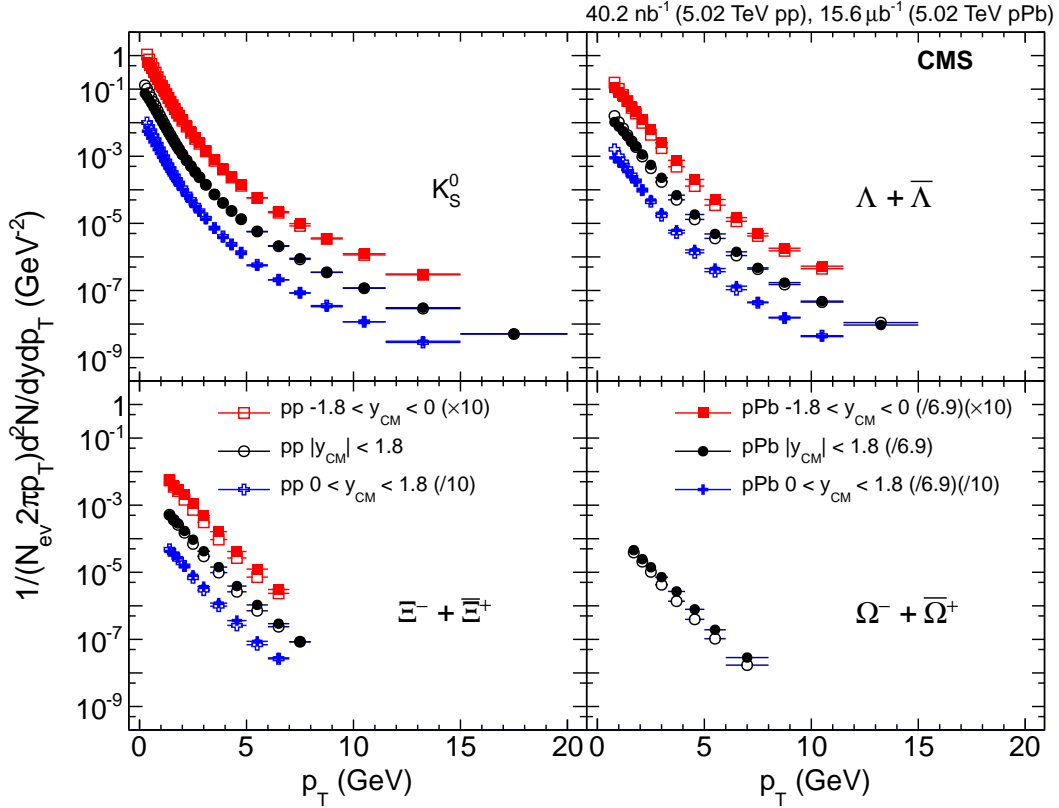


Figure 2: The invariant p_T -differential spectra of K_S^0 (upper left), $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$ (upper right), $\Xi^- + \bar{\Xi}^+$ (lower left), and $\Omega^- + \bar{\Omega}^+$ (lower right) for $|y_{CM}| < 1.8$, $-1.8 < y_{CM} < 0$, and $0 < y_{CM} < 1.8$ in pp and pPb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV. Spectra for different y_{CM} ranges are scaled by factors of powers of 10, with $|y_{CM}| < 1.8$ not scaled. To compare the strange-particle spectra in pp and pPb collisions directly, the spectra in pPb collisions are divided by 6.9, which is the average number of binary nucleon-nucleon collisions. The vertical bars correspond to statistical uncertainties, which are usually smaller than the marker size, while the horizontal bars represent the bin width.

2 GeV, R_{pPb} of all three species are found to be larger in the Pb-going direction than the p-going direction, with a stronger splitting between K_S^0 and baryons in the Pb-going direction. This trend is consistent with expectations from the radial-flow effect in hydrodynamic models [37, 38]. The predicted values of R_{pPb} for Ξ^- particles from the EPOS LHC model are larger than those from data in both p-going and Pb-going directions. Momentum broadening from parton multiple scattering as implemented in Ref. [12] predicts a stronger enhancement in the p-going direction, which is inconsistent with the results in Fig. 4. However, this could be explained by the prediction that this effect is small compared to the nuclear shadowing effect [54] at the LHC energies. The probed parton momentum fraction, x , in the nucleus is less than 0.02 for the p_T and rapidity considered in this analysis. Therefore, these measurements are sensitive to the shadowing effect, and R_{pPb} should be smaller in the p-going direction because the probed x fractions in the nucleus are smaller. The combined treatment of initial and final-state scatterings described in Ref. [39] is in qualitative agreement with the data.

6.2 The particle yield rapidity asymmetry

The invariant p_T -differential spectra of K_S^0 and Λ for five different y_{CM} ranges in pPb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV are presented in Fig. 5. Figure 6 shows the Y_{asym} (Pb-going direction in

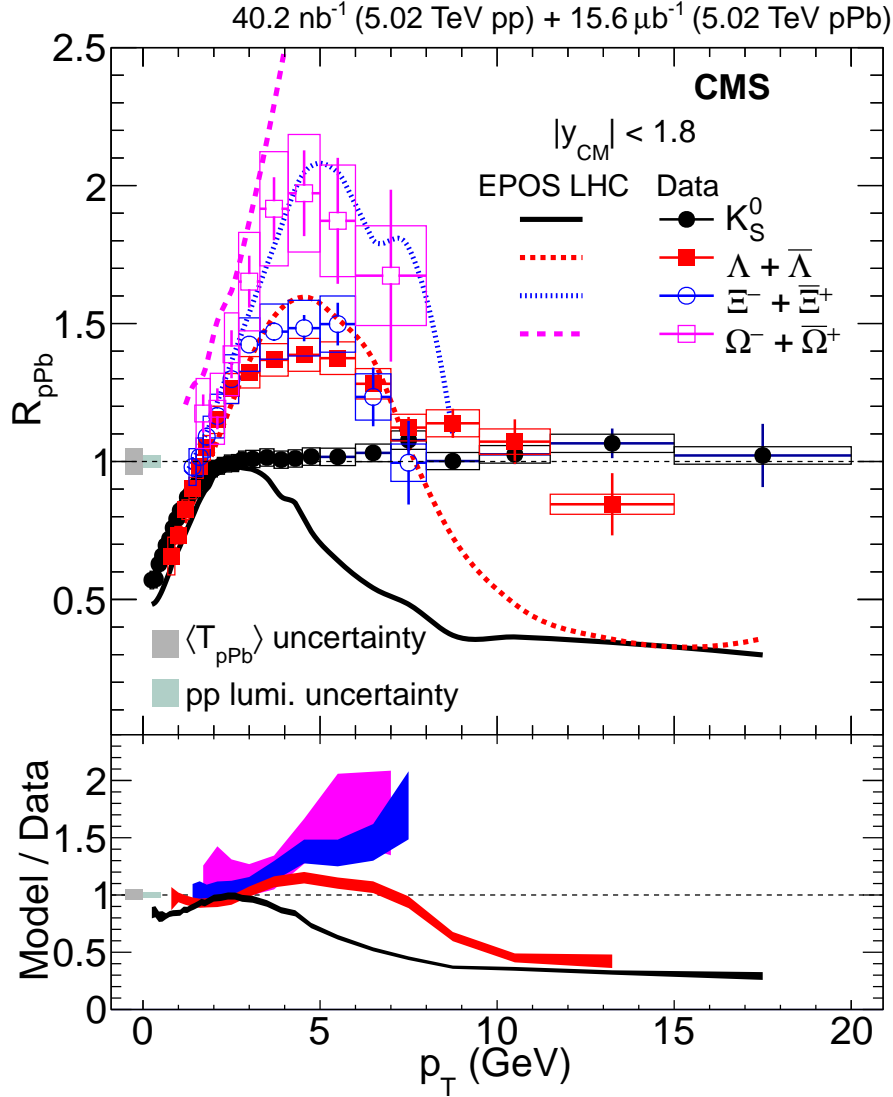


Figure 3: (Upper) Nuclear modification factors for K_S^0 (black filled circles), $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$ (red filled squares), $\Xi^- + \bar{\Xi}^+$ (blue open circles), and $\Omega^- + \bar{\Omega}^+$ (purple open squares) for $|y_{CM}| < 1.8$ in pPb collisions are presented. The vertical bars correspond to statistical uncertainties, and the horizontal bars represent the bin width, while the open boxes around the markers denote the systematic uncertainties. The $\langle T_{pPb} \rangle$ and pp integrated luminosity uncertainties are represented by the shaded boxes around unity. The results are compared to the EPOS LHC predictions, which include collective flow in pp and pPb collisions. The data and predictions share the same color for each particle species. (Lower) The ratios of nuclear modification factors for K_S^0 , $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$, $\Xi^- + \bar{\Xi}^+$, and $\Omega^- + \bar{\Omega}^+$ of the EPOS LHC predictions to the measurements are shown. The bands represent the combination of statistical and systematic uncertainties.

the numerator) as functions of p_T for K_S^0 , Λ and charged particles [36] for different rapidity (pseudorapidity) ranges. The observed Y_{asym} values depend both on p_T and particle species, and these dependencies are more pronounced in the forward (larger) y_{CM} ranges. The Y_{asym} are larger in the forward region, consistent with expectations from nuclear shadowing, and overall larger than unity in all measured $|y_{CM}|$ ranges. Significant departures from unity, and particle species dependencies are seen away from mid-rapidity in the region $1.3 < y_{CM} < 1.8$.

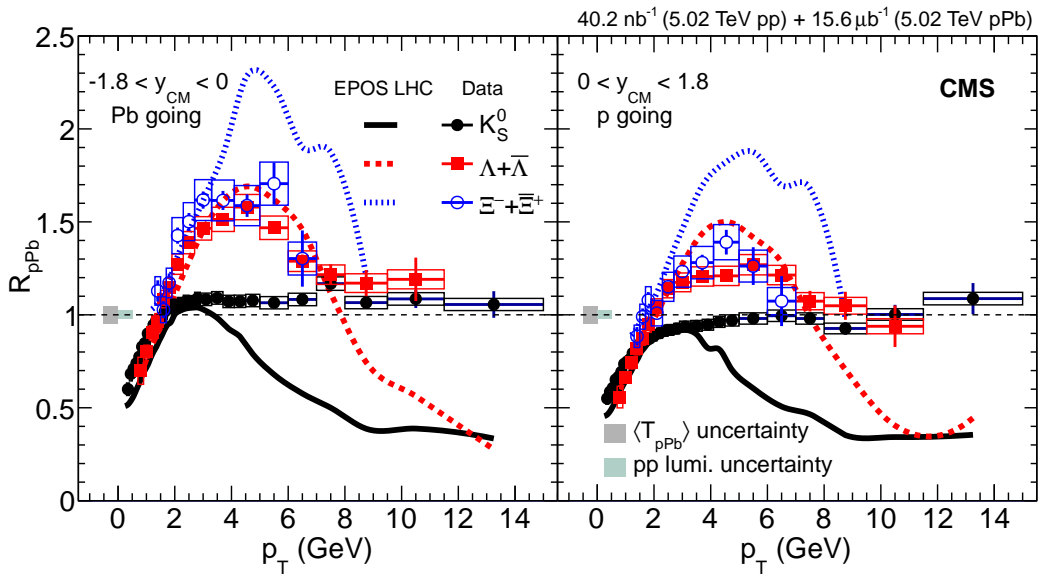


Figure 4: Nuclear modification factors of K_S^0 (black filled circles), $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$ (red filled squares), and $\Xi^- + \bar{\Xi}^+$ (blue open circles) particles for $-1.8 < y_{CM} < 0$ (Pb going, left) and $0 < y_{CM} < 1.8$ (p going, right) in pPb collisions are presented. The vertical bars correspond to statistical uncertainties, and the horizontal bars represent the bin width, while the open boxes around the markers denote the systematic uncertainties. The $\langle T_{pPb} \rangle$ and pp integrated luminosity uncertainties are represented by the shaded boxes around unity. The results are compared to the EPOS LHC predictions, which include collective flow in pp and pPb collisions [38]. The data and predictions share the same color for each particle species.

As a function of p_T for all particle species, the Y_{asym} values first rise and then fall, approaching unity at higher p_T . The peak values for Λ are shifted to higher p_T compared to the those of K_S^0 and charged particles, which include a p_T -dependent mixture of charged hadrons. The Y_{asym} of K_S^0 and Λ are larger than those of charged particles. These detailed structures, with mass dependence and meson-baryon differences, will provide strong constraints on hydrodynamic and recombination models in which particle species dependencies arise from the differences in mass or number of constituent quarks, respectively. The results of Y_{asym} are compared to the EPOS LHC predictions in the three y_{CM} ranges. The Y_{asym} from EPOS LHC increases from mid- y_{CM} to forward y_{CM} , consistent with the trend of the data, but fails to describe the particle species dependence at forward y_{CM} .

7 Summary

The transverse momentum (p_T) spectra of K_S^0 mesons, and Λ , Ξ^- , and Ω^- baryons (each summed with its anti-particle) have been measured in proton-proton and proton-lead collisions in several nucleon-nucleon center-of-mass rapidity (y_{CM}) ranges. The nuclear modification factors of K_S^0 , Λ , and Ξ^- in $|y_{CM}| < 1.8$, $-1.8 < y_{CM} < 0$, and $0 < y_{CM} < 1.8$ ranges are measured. In the p_T range from 2 to 7 GeV, enhancements are visible and a clear mass ordering is observed, which is consistent with expectations from radial-flow effects in hydrodynamic models. For each particle species, the nuclear modification factor R_{pPb} in the Pb-going side is higher than in the p-going side. This trend is also consistent with expectations from radial flow. The rapidity asymmetries Y_{asym} in K_S^0 and Λ yields between equivalent positive and negative y_{CM} are pre-

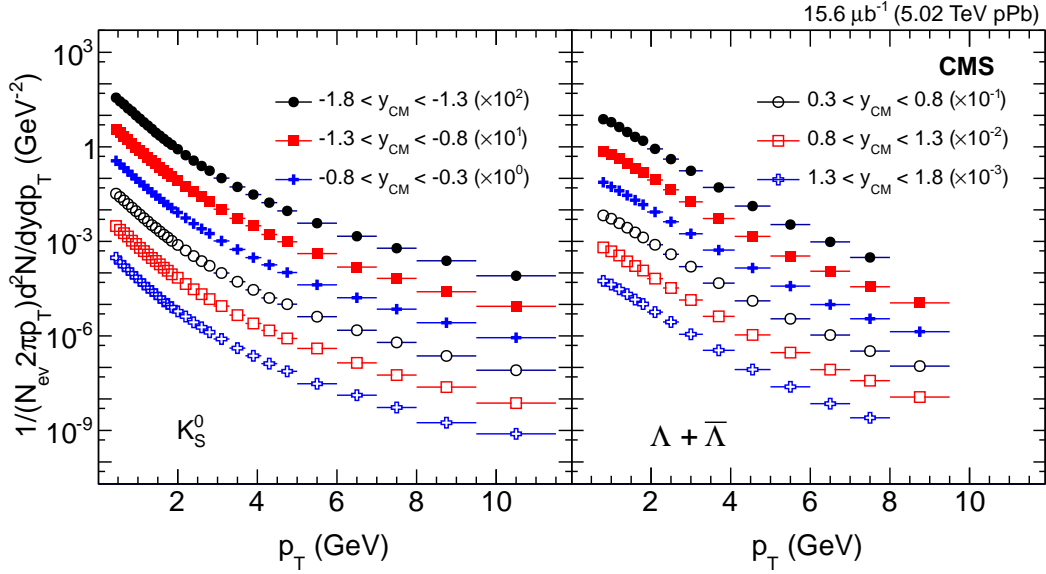


Figure 5: The invariant p_T -differential spectra of K_S^0 (left) and $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$ (right) particles for $-1.8 < y_{CM} < -1.3$, $-1.3 < y_{CM} < -0.8$, $-0.8 < y_{CM} < -0.3$, $0.3 < y_{CM} < 0.8$, $0.8 < y_{CM} < 1.3$, and $1.3 < y_{CM} < 1.8$ in pPb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV. Spectra in different y_{CM} ranges are scaled by factors of powers of 10, with $-0.8 < y_{CM} < -0.3$ not scaled. The vertical bars correspond to statistical uncertainties, which are usually smaller than the marker size, while the horizontal bars represent the bin width.

sented as functions of p_T in $0.3 < |y_{CM}| < 0.8$, $0.8 < |y_{CM}| < 1.3$, and $1.3 < |y_{CM}| < 1.8$, and compared to those for charged particles. The Y_{asym} values are larger than unity in all three y_{CM} ranges with greater enhancements observed at more forward regions. The mass dependence of R_{pPb} in the EPOS LHC model, which includes collective flow, is stronger than that observed in the data. The model also describes the increasing trend of Y_{asym} from mid-rapidity to forward rapidity, but fails to describe the dependence on particle species at forward rapidity. The results presented in this paper provide new insights into particle production in pPb collisions at high energies.

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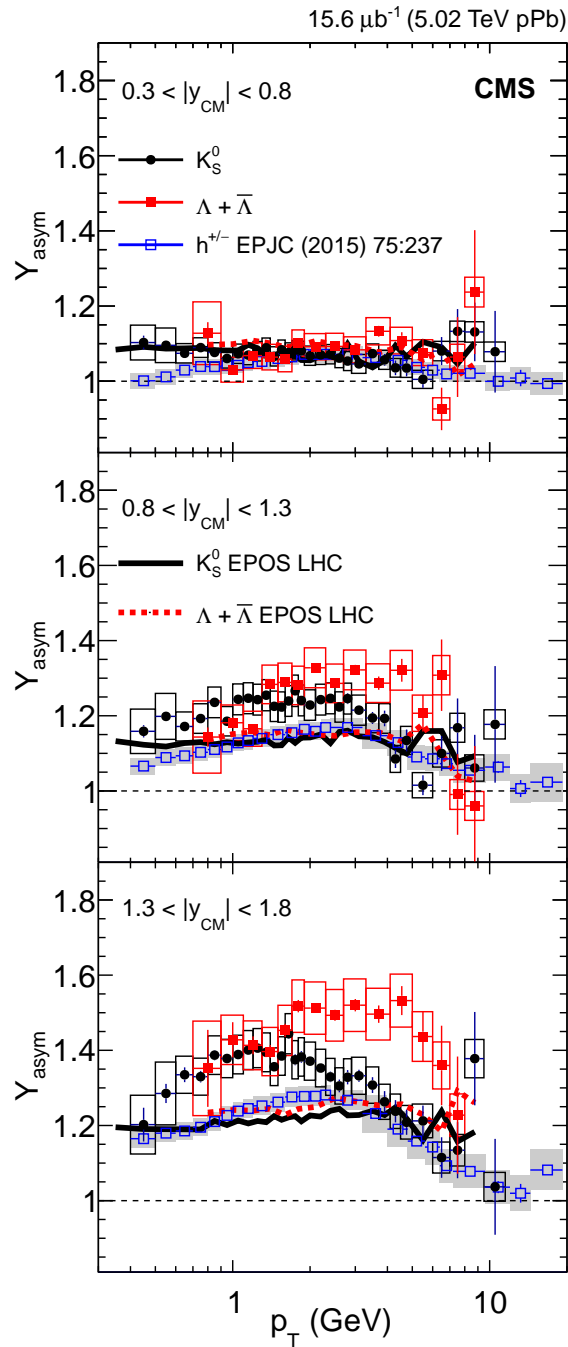


Figure 6: The Y_{asym} of K_S^0 (black filled circles), $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$ (red filled squares), and charged particles (blue open squares) at $0.3 < |y_{\text{CM}}| < 0.8$, $0.8 < |y_{\text{CM}}| < 1.3$, and $1.3 < |y_{\text{CM}}| < 1.8$ ($|\eta_{\text{CM}}|$ ranges for charged particles) in pPb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02$ TeV. The vertical bars correspond to statistical uncertainties, and the horizontal bars represent the bin width, while the boxes around the markers denote the systematic uncertainties. The results are compared to the EPOS LHC predictions, which include collective flow in pp and pPb collisions [38]. The data and predictions share the same color for each particle species.

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A The CMS Collaboration

Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia

A.M. Sirunyan, A. Tumasyan

Institut für Hochenergiephysik, Wien, Austria

W. Adam, F. Ambrogio, E. Asilar, T. Bergauer, J. Brandstetter, M. Dragicevic, J. Erö, A. Escalante Del Valle, M. Flechl, R. Frühwirth¹, V.M. Ghete, J. Hrubec, M. Jeitler¹, N. Krammer, I. Krätschmer, D. Liko, T. Madlener, I. Mikulec, N. Rad, H. Rohringer, J. Schieck¹, R. Schöfbeck, M. Spanring, D. Spitzbart, A. Taurok, W. Waltenberger, J. Wittmann, C.-E. Wulz¹, M. Zarucki

Institute for Nuclear Problems, Minsk, Belarus

V. Chekhovsky, V. Mossolov, J. Suarez Gonzalez

Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium

E.A. De Wolf, D. Di Croce, X. Janssen, J. Lauwers, M. Pieters, M. Van De Klundert, H. Van Haevermaet, P. Van Mechelen, N. Van Remortel

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium

S. Abu Zeid, F. Blekman, J. D'Hondt, I. De Bruyn, J. De Clercq, K. Deroover, G. Flouris, D. Lontkovskyi, S. Lowette, I. Marchesini, S. Moortgat, L. Moreels, Q. Python, K. Skovpen, S. Tavernier, W. Van Doninck, P. Van Mulders, I. Van Parijs

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium

D. Beghin, B. Bilin, H. Brun, B. Clerboux, G. De Lentdecker, H. Delannoy, B. Dorney, G. Fasanella, L. Favart, R. Goldouzian, A. Grebenyuk, A.K. Kalsi, T. Lenzi, J. Luetic, N. Postiau, E. Starling, L. Thomas, C. Vander Velde, P. Vanlaer, D. Vannerom, Q. Wang

Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

T. Cornelis, D. Dobur, A. Fagot, M. Gul, I. Khvastunov², D. Poyraz, C. Roskas, D. Trocino, M. Tytgat, W. Verbeke, B. Vermassen, M. Vit, N. Zaganidis

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

H. Bakhshiansohi, O. Bondu, S. Brochet, G. Bruno, C. Caputo, P. David, C. Delaere, M. Delcourt, B. Francois, A. Giammanco, G. Krintiras, V. Lemaitre, A. Magitteri, A. Mertens, M. Musich, K. Piotrkowski, A. Saggio, M. Vidal Marono, S. Wertz, J. Zobec

Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Fisicas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

F.L. Alves, G.A. Alves, L. Brito, M. Correa Martins Junior, G. Correia Silva, C. Hensel, A. Moraes, M.E. Pol, P. Rebello Teles

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

E. Belchior Batista Das Chagas, W. Carvalho, J. Chinellato³, E. Coelho, E.M. Da Costa, G.G. Da Silveira⁴, D. De Jesus Damiao, C. De Oliveira Martins, S. Fonseca De Souza, H. Malbouisson, D. Matos Figueiredo, M. Melo De Almeida, C. Mora Herrera, L. Mundim, H. Nogima, W.L. Prado Da Silva, L.J. Sanchez Rosas, A. Santoro, A. Sznajder, M. Thiel, E.J. Tonelli Manganote³, F. Torres Da Silva De Araujo, A. Vilela Pereira

Universidade Estadual Paulista ^a, Universidade Federal do ABC ^b, São Paulo, Brazil

S. Ahuja^a, C.A. Bernardes^a, L. Calligaris^a, T.R. Fernandez Perez Tomei^a, E.M. Gregores^b, P.G. Mercadante^b, S.F. Novaes^a, SandraS. Padula^a, D. Romero Abad^b

Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia,

Bulgaria

A. Aleksandrov, R. Hadjiiska, P. Iaydjiev, A. Marinov, M. Misheva, M. Rodozov, M. Shopova, G. Sultanov

University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria

A. Dimitrov, L. Litov, B. Pavlov, P. Petkov

Beihang University, Beijing, China

W. Fang⁵, X. Gao⁵, L. Yuan

Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing, China

M. Ahmad, J.G. Bian, G.M. Chen, H.S. Chen, M. Chen, Y. Chen, C.H. Jiang, D. Leggat, H. Liao, Z. Liu, F. Romeo, S.M. Shaheen⁶, A. Spiezia, J. Tao, C. Wang, Z. Wang, E. Yazgan, H. Zhang, J. Zhao

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

Y. Ban, G. Chen, A. Levin, J. Li, L. Li, Q. Li, Y. Mao, S.J. Qian, D. Wang, Z. Xu

Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

Y. Wang

Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia

C. Avila, A. Cabrera, C.A. Carrillo Montoya, L.F. Chaparro Sierra, C. Florez, C.F. González Hernández, M.A. Segura Delgado

University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, Split, Croatia

B. Courbon, N. Godinovic, D. Lelas, I. Puljak, T. Sculac

University of Split, Faculty of Science, Split, Croatia

Z. Antunovic, M. Kovac

Institute Rudjer Boskovic, Zagreb, Croatia

V. Brigljevic, D. Ferencek, K. Kadija, B. Mesic, A. Starodumov⁷, T. Susa

University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus

M.W. Ather, A. Attikis, M. Kolosova, G. Mavromanolakis, J. Mousa, C. Nicolaou, F. Ptochos, P.A. Razis, H. Rykaczewski

Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

M. Finger⁸, M. Finger Jr.⁸

Escuela Politecnica Nacional, Quito, Ecuador

E. Ayala

Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Quito, Ecuador

E. Carrera Jarrin

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

A. Ellithi Kamel⁹, M.A. Mahmoud^{10,11}, E. Salama^{11,12}

National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia

S. Bhowmik, A. Carvalho Antunes De Oliveira, R.K. Dewanjee, K. Ehataht, M. Kadastik, M. Raidal, C. Veelken

Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

P. Eerola, H. Kirschenmann, J. Pekkanen, M. Voutilainen

Helsinki Institute of Physics, Helsinki, Finland

J. Havukainen, J.K. Heikkilä, T. Järvinen, V. Karimäki, R. Kinnunen, T. Lampén, K. Lassila-Perini, S. Laurila, S. Lehti, T. Lindén, P. Luukka, T. Mäenpää, H. Siikonen, E. Tuominen, J. Tuominiemi

Lappeenranta University of Technology, Lappeenranta, Finland

T. Tuuva

IRFU, CEA, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France

M. Besancon, F. Couderc, M. Dejardin, D. Denegri, J.L. Faure, F. Ferri, S. Ganjour, A. Givernaud, P. Gras, G. Hamel de Monchenault, P. Jarry, C. Leloup, E. Locci, J. Malcles, G. Negro, J. Rander, A. Rosowsky, M.Ö. Sahin, M. Titov

Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, Ecole polytechnique, CNRS/IN2P3, Université Paris-Saclay, Palaiseau, France

A. Abdulsalam¹³, C. Amendola, I. Antropov, F. Beaudette, P. Busson, C. Charlot, R. Granier de Cassagnac, I. Kucher, S. Lisniak, A. Lobanov, J. Martin Blanco, M. Nguyen, C. Ochando, G. Ortona, P. Paganini, P. Pigard, R. Salerno, J.B. Sauvan, Y. Sirois, A.G. Stahl Leiton, A. Zabi, A. Zghiche

Université de Strasbourg, CNRS, IPHC UMR 7178, Strasbourg, France

J.-L. Agram¹⁴, J. Andrea, D. Bloch, J.-M. Brom, E.C. Chabert, V. Cherepanov, C. Collard, E. Conte¹⁴, J.-C. Fontaine¹⁴, D. Gelé, U. Goerlach, M. Jansová, A.-C. Le Bihan, N. Tonon, P. Van Hove

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

S. Gadrat

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

S. Beauceron, C. Bernet, G. Boudoul, N. Chanon, R. Chierici, D. Contardo, P. Depasse, H. El Mamouni, J. Fay, L. Finco, S. Gascon, M. Gouzevitch, G. Grenier, B. Ille, F. Lagarde, I.B. Laktineh, H. Lattaud, M. Lethuillier, L. Mirabito, A.L. Pequegnot, S. Perries, A. Popov¹⁵, V. Sordini, M. Vander Donckt, S. Viret, S. Zhang

Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi, Georgia

A. Khvedelidze⁸

Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

Z. Tsamalaidze⁸

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

C. Autermann, L. Feld, M.K. Kiesel, K. Klein, M. Lipinski, M. Preuten, M.P. Rauch, C. Schomakers, J. Schulz, M. Teroerde, B. Wittmer, V. Zhukov¹⁵

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

A. Albert, D. Duchardt, M. Endres, M. Erdmann, T. Esch, R. Fischer, S. Ghosh, A. Güth, T. Hebbeker, C. Heidemann, K. Hoepfner, H. Keller, S. Knutzen, L. Mastrolorenzo, M. Merschmeyer, A. Meyer, P. Millet, S. Mukherjee, T. Pook, M. Radziej, H. Reithler, M. Rieger, F. Scheuch, A. Schmidt, D. Teyssier

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

G. Flügge, O. Hlushchenko, B. Kargoll, T. Kress, A. Künsken, T. Müller, A. Nehr Korn, A. Nowack, C. Pistone, O. Pooth, H. Sert, A. Stahl¹⁶

Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany

M. Aldaya Martin, T. Arndt, C. Asawatangtrakuldee, I. Babounikau, K. Beernaert, O. Behnke, U. Behrens, A. Bermúdez Martínez, D. Bertsche, A.A. Bin Anuar, K. Borrás¹⁷, V. Botta, A. Campbell, P. Connor, C. Contreras-Campana, F. Costanza, V. Danilov, A. De Wit, M.M. Defranchis, C. Diez Pardos, D. Domínguez Damiani, G. Eckerlin, T. Eichhorn, A. Elwood, E. Eren, E. Gallo¹⁸, A. Geiser, J.M. Grados Luyando, A. Grohsjean, P. Gunnellini, M. Guthoff, M. Haranko, A. Harb, J. Hauk, H. Jung, M. Kasemann, J. Keaveney, C. Kleinwort, J. Knolle, D. Krücker, W. Lange, A. Lelek, T. Lenz, K. Lipka, W. Lohmann¹⁹, R. Mankel, I.-A. Melzer-Pellmann, A.B. Meyer, M. Meyer, M. Missiroli, G. Mittag, J. Mnich, V. Myronenko, S.K. Pflitsch, D. Pitzl, A. Raspereza, M. Savitskyi, P. Saxena, P. Schütze, C. Schwanenberger, R. Shevchenko, A. Singh, N. Stefaniuk, H. Tholen, O. Turkot, A. Vagnerini, G.P. Van Onsem, R. Walsh, Y. Wen, K. Wichmann, C. Wissing, O. Zenaiev

University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

R. Aggleton, S. Bein, L. Benato, A. Benecke, V. Blobel, M. Centis Vignali, T. Dreyer, E. Garutti, D. Gonzalez, J. Haller, A. Hinzm ann, A. Karavdina, G. Kasieczka, R. Klanner, R. Kogler, N. Kovalchuk, S. Kurz, V. Kutzner, J. Lange, D. Marconi, J. Multhaup, M. Niedziela, D. Nowatschin, A. Perieanu, A. Reimers, O. Rieger, C. Scharf, P. Schleper, S. Schumann, J. Schwandt, J. Sonneveld, H. Stadie, G. Steinbrück, F.M. Stober, M. Stöver, D. Troendle, A. Vanhoefer, B. Vormwald

Karlsruher Institut fuer Technologie, Karlsruhe, Germany

M. Akbiyik, C. Barth, M. Baselga, S. Baur, E. Butz, R. Caspart, T. Chwalek, F. Colombo, W. De Boer, A. Dierlamm, N. Faltermann, B. Freund, M. Giffels, M.A. Harrendorf, F. Hartmann¹⁶, S.M. Heindl, U. Husemann, F. Kassel¹⁶, I. Katkov¹⁵, S. Kudella, H. Mildner, S. Mitra, M.U. Mozer, Th. Müller, M. Plagge, G. Quast, K. Rabbertz, M. Schröder, I. Shvetsov, G. Sieber, H.J. Simonis, R. Ulrich, S. Wayand, M. Weber, T. Weiler, S. Williamson, C. Wöhrmann, R. Wolf

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

G. Anagnostou, G. Daskalakis, T. Gerasis, A. Kyriakis, D. Loukas, G. Paspalaki, I. Topsis-Giotis

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece

G. Karathanasis, S. Kesisoglou, P. Kontaxakis, A. Panagiotou, N. Saoulidou, E. Tziaferi, K. Vellidis

National Technical University of Athens, Athens, Greece

K. Kousouris, I. Papakrivopoulos, G. Tsipolitis

University of Ioánnina, Ioánnina, Greece

I. Evangelou, C. Foudas, P. Giannelis, P. Katsoulis, P. Kokkas, S. Mallios, N. Manthos, I. Papadopoulos, E. Paradas, J. Strolugas, F.A. Triantis, D. Tsitsonis

MTA-ELTE Lendület CMS Particle and Nuclear Physics Group, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary

M. Bartók²⁰, M. Csanad, N. Filipovic, P. Major, M.I. Nagy, G. Pasztor, O. Surányi, G.I. Veres

Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary

G. Bencze, C. Hajdu, D. Horvath²¹, . Hunyadi, F. Sikler, T.. Vámi, V. Veszpremi, G. Vesztergombi[†]

Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary

N. Beni, S. Czellar, J. Karancsi²², A. Makovec, J. Molnar, Z. Szillasi

Institute of Physics, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary

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

Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, India

S. Choudhury, J.R. Komaragiri, P.C. Tiwari

National Institute of Science Education and Research, HBNI, Bhubaneswar, India

S. Bahinipati²³, C. Kar, P. Mal, K. Mandal, A. Nayak²⁴, D.K. Sahoo²³, S.K. Swain

Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

S. Bansal, S.B. Beri, V. Bhatnagar, S. Chauhan, R. Chawla, N. Dhingra, R. Gupta, A. Kaur, A. Kaur, M. Kaur, S. Kaur, R. Kumar, P. Kumari, M. Lohan, A. Mehta, K. Sandeep, S. Sharma, J.B. Singh, G. Walia

University of Delhi, Delhi, India

A. Bhardwaj, B.C. Choudhary, R.B. Garg, M. Gola, S. Keshri, Ashok Kumar, S. Malhotra, M. Naimuddin, P. Priyanka, K. Ranjan, Aashaq Shah, R. Sharma

Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, HBNI, Kolkata, India

R. Bhardwaj²⁵, M. Bharti, R. Bhattacharya, S. Bhattacharya, U. Bhawandeep²⁵, D. Bhowmik, S. Dey, S. Dutt²⁵, S. Dutta, S. Ghosh, K. Mondal, S. Nandan, A. Purohit, P.K. Rout, A. Roy, S. Roy Chowdhury, S. Sarkar, M. Sharan, B. Singh, S. Thakur²⁵

Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Madras, India

P.K. Behera

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, India

R. Chudasama, D. Dutta, V. Jha, V. Kumar, P.K. Netrakanti, L.M. Pant, P. Shukla

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research-A, Mumbai, India

T. Aziz, M.A. Bhat, S. Dugad, G.B. Mohanty, N. Sur, B. Sutar, RavindraKumar Verma

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research-B, Mumbai, India

S. Banerjee, S. Bhattacharya, S. Chatterjee, P. Das, M. Guchait, Sa. Jain, S. Karmakar, S. Kumar, M. Maity²⁶, G. Majumder, K. Mazumdar, N. Sahoo, T. Sarkar²⁶

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, India

S. Chauhan, S. Dube, V. Hegde, A. Kapoor, K. Kothekar, S. Pandey, A. Rane, S. Sharma

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

S. Chenarani²⁷, E. Eskandari Tadavani, S.M. Etesami²⁷, M. Khakzad, M. Mohammadi Najafabadi, M. Naseri, F. Rezaei Hosseinabadi, B. Safarzadeh²⁸, M. Zeinali

University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

M. Felcini, M. Grunewald

INFN Sezione di Bari ^a, Università di Bari ^b, Politecnico di Bari ^c, Bari, Italy

M. Abbrescia^{a,b}, C. Calabria^{a,b}, A. Colaleo^a, D. Creanza^{a,c}, L. Cristella^{a,b}, N. De Filippis^{a,c}, M. De Palma^{a,b}, A. Di Florio^{a,b}, F. Errico^{a,b}, L. Fiore^a, A. Gelmi^{a,b}, G. Iaselli^{a,c}, M. Ince^{a,b}, S. Lezki^{a,b}, G. Maggi^{a,c}, M. Maggi^a, G. Miniello^{a,b}, S. My^{a,b}, S. Nuzzo^{a,b}, A. Pompili^{a,b},

G. Pugliese^{a,c}, R. Radogna^a, A. Ranieri^a, G. Selvaggi^{a,b}, A. Sharma^a, L. Silvestris^a, R. Venditti^a, P. Verwilligen^a, G. Zito^a

INFN Sezione di Bologna ^a, Università di Bologna ^b, Bologna, Italy

G. Abbiendi^a, C. Battilana^{a,b}, D. Bonacorsi^{a,b}, L. Borgonovi^{a,b}, S. Braibant-Giacomelli^{a,b}, R. Campanini^{a,b}, P. Capiluppi^{a,b}, A. Castro^{a,b}, F.R. Cavallo^a, S.S. Chhibra^{a,b}, C. Ciocca^a, G. Codispoti^{a,b}, M. Cuffiani^{a,b}, G.M. Dallavalle^a, F. Fabbri^a, A. Fanfani^{a,b}, P. Giacomelli^a, C. Grandi^a, L. Guiducci^{a,b}, F. Iemmi^{a,b}, S. Marcellini^a, G. Masetti^a, A. Montanari^a, F.L. Navarria^{a,b}, A. Perrotta^a, F. Primavera^{a,b,16}, A.M. Rossi^{a,b}, T. Rovelli^{a,b}, G.P. Siroli^{a,b}, N. Tosi^a

INFN Sezione di Catania ^a, Università di Catania ^b, Catania, Italy

S. Albergo^{a,b}, A. Di Mattia^a, 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, K. Chatterjee^{a,b}, V. Ciulli^{a,b}, C. Civinini^a, R. D'Alessandro^{a,b}, E. Focardi^{a,b}, G. Latino, P. Lenzi^{a,b}, M. Meschini^a, S. Paoletti^a, L. Russo^{a,29}, G. Sguazzoni^a, D. Strom^a, L. Viliani^a

INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy

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

INFN Sezione di Genova ^a, Università di Genova ^b, Genova, Italy

F. Ferro^a, F. Ravera^{a,b}, E. Robutti^a, S. Tosi^{a,b}

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

A. Benaglia^a, A. Beschi^b, L. Brianza^{a,b}, F. Brivio^{a,b}, V. Ciriolo^{a,b,16}, S. Di Guida^{a,d,16}, M.E. Dinardo^{a,b}, S. Fiorendi^{a,b}, S. Gennai^a, A. Ghezzi^{a,b}, P. Govoni^{a,b}, M. Malberti^{a,b}, S. Malvezzi^a, A. Massironi^{a,b}, D. Menasce^a, L. Moroni^a, M. Paganoni^{a,b}, D. Pedrini^a, S. Ragazzi^{a,b}, T. Tabarelli de Fatis^{a,b}

INFN Sezione di Napoli ^a, Università di Napoli 'Federico II' ^b, Napoli, Italy, Università della Basilicata ^c, Potenza, Italy, Università G. Marconi ^d, Roma, Italy

S. Buontempo^a, N. Cavallo^{a,c}, A. Di Crescenzo^{a,b}, F. Fabozzi^{a,c}, F. Fienga^a, G. Galati^a, A.O.M. Iorio^{a,b}, W.A. Khan^a, L. Lista^a, S. Meola^{a,d,16}, P. Paolucci^{a,16}, C. Sciacca^{a,b}, E. Voevodina^{a,b}

INFN Sezione di Padova ^a, Università di Padova ^b, Padova, Italy, Università di Trento ^c, Trento, Italy

P. Azzi^a, N. Bacchetta^a, D. Bisello^{a,b}, A. Boletti^{a,b}, A. Bragagnolo, R. Carlin^{a,b}, P. Checchia^a, M. Dall'Osso^{a,b}, P. De Castro Manzano^a, T. Dorigo^a, U. Dosselli^a, F. Gasparini^{a,b}, U. Gasparini^{a,b}, A. Gozzelino^a, S. Lacaprara^a, P. Lujan, M. Margoni^{a,b}, A.T. Meneguzzo^{a,b}, J. Pazzini^{a,b}, P. Ronchese^{a,b}, R. Rossin^{a,b}, F. Simonetto^{a,b}, A. Tiko, E. Torassa^a, M. Zanetti^{a,b}, P. Zotto^{a,b}, G. Zumerle^{a,b}

INFN Sezione di Pavia ^a, Università di Pavia ^b, Pavia, Italy

A. Braghieri^a, A. Magnani^a, P. Montagna^{a,b}, S.P. Ratti^{a,b}, V. Re^a, M. Ressegotti^{a,b}, C. Riccardi^{a,b}, P. Salvini^a, I. Vai^{a,b}, P. Vitulo^{a,b}

INFN Sezione di Perugia ^a, Università di Perugia ^b, Perugia, Italy

L. Alunni Solestizi^{a,b}, M. Biasini^{a,b}, G.M. Bilei^a, C. Cecchi^{a,b}, D. Ciangottini^{a,b}, L. Fanò^{a,b}, P. Lariccia^{a,b}, R. Leonardi^{a,b}, E. Manoni^a, G. Mantovani^{a,b}, V. Mariani^{a,b}, M. Menichelli^a, A. Rossi^{a,b}, A. Santocchia^{a,b}, D. Spiga^a

INFN Sezione di Pisa ^a, Università di Pisa ^b, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa ^c, Pisa, Italy

K. Androsov^a, P. Azzurri^a, G. Bagliesi^a, L. Bianchini^a, T. Boccali^a, L. Borrello, R. Castaldi^a, M.A. Ciocci^{a,b}, R. Dell'Orso^a, G. Fedi^a, F. Fiori^{a,c}, L. Giannini^{a,c}, A. Giassi^a, M.T. Grippo^a, F. Ligabue^{a,c}, E. Manca^{a,c}, G. Mandorli^{a,c}, A. Messineo^{a,b}, F. Palla^a, A. Rizzi^{a,b}, P. Spagnolo^a, R. Tenchini^a, G. Tonelli^{a,b}, A. Venturi^a, P.G. Verdini^a

INFN Sezione di Roma ^a, Sapienza Università di Roma ^b, Rome, Italy

L. Barone^{a,b}, F. Cavallari^a, M. Cipriani^{a,b}, N. Daci^a, D. Del Re^{a,b}, E. Di Marco^{a,b}, M. Diemoz^a, S. Gelli^{a,b}, E. Longo^{a,b}, B. Marzocchi^{a,b}, P. Meridiani^a, G. Organtini^{a,b}, F. Pandolfi^a, R. Paramatti^{a,b}, F. Preiato^{a,b}, S. Rahatlou^{a,b}, C. Rovelli^a, F. Santanastasio^{a,b}

INFN Sezione di Torino ^a, Università di Torino ^b, Torino, Italy, Università del Piemonte Orientale ^c, Novara, Italy

N. Amapane^{a,b}, R. Arcidiacono^{a,c}, S. Argiro^{a,b}, M. Arneodo^{a,c}, N. Bartosik^a, R. Bellan^{a,b}, C. Biino^a, N. Cartiglia^a, F. Cenna^{a,b}, S. Cometti, M. Costa^{a,b}, R. Covarelli^{a,b}, N. Demaria^a, B. Kiani^{a,b}, C. Mariotti^a, S. Maselli^a, E. Migliore^{a,b}, V. Monaco^{a,b}, E. Monteil^{a,b}, M. Monteno^a, M.M. Obertino^{a,b}, L. Pacher^{a,b}, N. Pastrone^a, M. Pelliccioni^a, G.L. Pinna Angioni^{a,b}, A. Romero^{a,b}, M. Ruspa^{a,c}, R. Sacchi^{a,b}, K. Shchelina^{a,b}, V. Sola^a, A. Solano^{a,b}, D. Soldi, 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}, F. Vazzoler^{a,b}, A. Zanetti^a

Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea

D.H. Kim, G.N. Kim, M.S. Kim, J. Lee, S. Lee, S.W. Lee, C.S. Moon, Y.D. Oh, S. Sekmen, D.C. Son, Y.C. Yang

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

H. Kim, D.H. Moon, G. Oh

Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea

J. Goh³⁰, T.J. Kim

Korea University, Seoul, Korea

S. Cho, S. Choi, Y. Go, D. Gyun, S. Ha, B. Hong, Y. Jo, K. Lee, K.S. Lee, S. Lee, J. Lim, S.K. Park, Y. Roh

Sejong University, Seoul, Korea

H.S. Kim

Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea

J. Almond, J. Kim, J.S. Kim, H. Lee, K. Lee, K. Nam, S.B. Oh, B.C. Radburn-Smith, S.h. Seo, U.K. Yang, H.D. Yoo, G.B. Yu

University of Seoul, Seoul, Korea

D. Jeon, H. Kim, J.H. Kim, J.S.H. Lee, I.C. Park

Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, Korea

Y. Choi, C. Hwang, J. Lee, I. Yu

Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania

V. Dudenas, A. Juodagalvis, J. Vaitkus

National Centre for Particle Physics, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

I. Ahmed, Z.A. Ibrahim, M.A.B. Md Ali³¹, F. Mohamad Idris³², W.A.T. Wan Abdullah, M.N. Yusli, Z. Zolkapli

Universidad de Sonora (UNISON), Hermosillo, Mexico

A. Castaneda Hernandez, J.A. Murillo Quijada

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

H. Castilla-Valdez, E. De La Cruz-Burelo, M.C. Duran-Osuna, I. Heredia-De La Cruz³³, R. Lopez-Fernandez, J. Mejia Guisao, R.I. Rabadan-Trejo, G. Ramirez-Sanchez, R Reyes-Almanza, A. Sanchez-Hernandez

Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico

S. Carrillo Moreno, C. Oropeza Barrera, F. Vazquez Valencia

Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, Puebla, Mexico

J. Eysermans, I. Pedraza, H.A. Salazar Ibarguen, C. Uribe Estrada

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

A. Morelos Pineda

University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

D. Krofcheck

University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

S. Bheesette, P.H. Butler

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

A. Ahmad, M. Ahmad, M.I. Asghar, Q. Hassan, H.R. Hoorani, A. Saddique, M.A. Shah, M. Shoaib, M. Waqas

National Centre for Nuclear Research, Swierk, Poland

H. Bialkowska, M. Bluj, B. Boimska, T. Frueboes, M. Górski, M. Kazana, K. Nawrocki, M. Szleper, P. Traczyk, P. Zalewski

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

K. Bunkowski, A. Byszuk³⁴, K. Doroba, A. Kalinowski, M. Konecki, J. Krolikowski, M. Misiura, M. Olszewski, A. Pyskir, M. Walczak

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

P. Bargassa, C. Beirão Da Cruz E Silva, A. Di Francesco, P. Faccioli, B. Galinhas, M. Gallinaro, J. Hollar, N. Leonardo, L. Lloret Iglesias, M.V. Nemallapudi, J. Seixas, G. Strong, O. Toldaiev, D. Vadrucio, J. Varela

Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia

A. Baginyan, A. Golunov, I. Golutvin, V. Karjavin, I. Kashunin, V. Korenkov, G. Kozlov, A. Lanev, A. Malakhov, V. Matveev^{35,36}, P. Moisezenz, V. Palichik, V. Perelygin, S. Shmatov, N. Skatchkov, V. Smirnov, B.S. Yuldashev³⁷, A. Zarubin, V. Zhiltsov

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

V. Golovtsov, Y. Ivanov, V. Kim³⁸, E. Kuznetsova³⁹, P. Levchenko, V. Murzin, V. Oreshkin, I. Smirnov, D. Sosnov, V. Sulimov, L. Uvarov, S. Vavilov, A. Vorobyev

Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia

Yu. Andreev, A. Dermenev, S. Gninenko, N. Golubev, A. Karneyeu, M. Kirsanov, N. Krasnikov, A. Pashenkov, D. Tlisov, A. Toropin

Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics named by A.I. Alikhanov of NRC 'Kurchatov Institute', Moscow, Russia

V. Epshteyn, V. Gavrilov, N. Lychkovskaya, V. Popov, I. Pozdnyakov, G. Safronov, A. Spiridonov, A. Stepenov, V. Stolin, M. Toms, E. Vlasov, A. Zhokin

Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Moscow, Russia

T. Aushev

National Research Nuclear University 'Moscow Engineering Physics Institute' (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia

M. Chadeeva⁴⁰, P. Parygin, D. Philippov, S. Polikarpov⁴⁰, E. Popova, V. Rusinov

P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia

V. Andreev, M. Azarkin³⁶, I. Dremin³⁶, M. Kirakosyan³⁶, S.V. Rusakov, A. Terkulov

Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia

A. Baskakov, A. Belyaev, E. Boos, A. Demiyanov, A. Ershov, A. Gribushin, O. Kodolova, V. Korotkikh, I. Lokhtin, I. Miagkov, S. Obraztsov, S. Petrushanko, V. Savrin, A. Snigirev, I. Vardanyan

Novosibirsk State University (NSU), Novosibirsk, Russia

V. Blinov⁴¹, T. Dimova⁴¹, L. Kardapoltsev⁴¹, D. Shtol⁴¹, Y. Skovpen⁴¹

Institute for High Energy Physics of National Research Centre 'Kurchatov Institute', Protvino, Russia

I. Azhgirey, I. Bayshev, S. Bitioukov, D. Elumakhov, A. Godizov, V. Kachanov, A. Kalinin, D. Konstantinov, P. Mandrik, V. Petrov, R. Ryutin, S. Slabospitskii, A. Sobol, S. Troshin, N. Tyurin, A. Uzunian, A. Volkov

National Research Tomsk Polytechnic University, Tomsk, Russia

A. Babaev, S. Baidali

University of Belgrade: Faculty of Physics and VINCA Institute of Nuclear Sciences

P. Adzic⁴², P. Cirkovic, D. Devetak, M. Dordevic, J. Milosevic

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

J. Alcaraz Maestre, A. Alvarez Fernández, I. Bachiller, M. Barrio Luna, J.A. Brochero Cifuentes, M. Cerrada, N. Colino, B. De La Cruz, A. Delgado Peris, C. Fernandez Bedoya, J.P. Fernández Ramos, J. Flix, M.C. Fouz, O. Gonzalez Lopez, S. Goy Lopez, J.M. Hernandez, M.I. Josa, D. Moran, A. Pérez-Calero Yzquierdo, J. Puerta Pelayo, I. Redondo, L. Romero, M.S. Soares, A. Triossi

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

C. Albajar, J.F. de Trocóniz

Universidad de Oviedo, Instituto Universitario de Ciencias y Tecnologías Espaciales de Asturias (ICTEA), Oviedo, Spain

J. Cuevas, C. Erice, J. Fernandez Menendez, S. Folgueras, I. Gonzalez Caballero, J.R. González Fernández, E. Palencia Cortezon, V. Rodríguez Bouza, S. Sanchez Cruz, P. Vischia, J.M. Vizán García

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

I.J. Cabrillo, A. Calderon, B. Chazin Quero, J. Duarte Campderros, M. Fernandez,

P.J. Fernández Manteca, A. García Alonso, J. Garcia-Ferrero, G. Gomez, A. Lopez Virto, J. Marco, C. Martinez Rivero, P. Martinez Ruiz del Arbol, F. Matorras, J. Piedra Gomez, C. Prieels, T. Rodrigo, A. Ruiz-Jimeno, L. Scodellaro, N. Trevisani, I. Vila, R. Vilar Cortabitarte

CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland

D. Abbaneo, B. Akgun, E. Auffray, P. Baillon, A.H. Ball, D. Barney, J. Bendavid, M. Bianco, A. Bocci, C. Botta, E. Brondolin, T. Camporesi, M. Cepeda, G. Cerminara, E. Chapon, Y. Chen, G. Cucciati, D. d'Enterria, A. Dabrowski, V. Daponte, A. David, A. De Roeck, N. Deelen, M. Dobson, T. du Pree, M. Dünser, N. Dupont, A. Elliott-Peisert, P. Everaerts, F. Fallavollita⁴³, D. Fasanella, G. Franzoni, J. Fulcher, W. Funk, D. Gigi, A. Gilbert, K. Gill, F. Glege, M. Guilbaud, D. Gulhan, J. Hegeman, V. Innocente, A. Jafari, P. Janot, O. Karacheban¹⁹, J. Kieseler, A. Kornmayer, M. Krammer¹, C. Lange, P. Lecoq, C. Lourenço, L. Malgeri, M. Mannelli, F. Meijers, J.A. Merlin, S. Mersi, E. Meschi, P. Milenovic⁴⁴, F. Moortgat, M. Mulders, J. Ngadiuba, S. Orfanelli, L. Orsini, F. Pantaleo¹⁶, L. Pape, E. Perez, M. Peruzzi, A. Petrilli, G. Petrucciani, A. Pfeiffer, M. Pierini, F.M. Pitters, D. Rabadý, A. Racz, T. Reis, G. Rolandi⁴⁵, M. Rovere, H. Sakulin, C. Schäfer, C. Schwick, M. Seidel, M. Selvaggi, A. Sharma, P. Silva, P. Sphicas⁴⁶, A. Stakia, J. Steggemann, M. Tosi, D. Treille, A. Tsirou, V. Veckalns⁴⁷, W.D. Zeuner

Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland

L. Caminada⁴⁸, K. Deiters, W. Erdmann, R. Horisberger, Q. Ingram, H.C. Kaestli, D. Kotlinski, U. Langenegger, T. Rohe, S.A. Wiederkehr

ETH Zurich - Institute for Particle Physics and Astrophysics (IPA), Zurich, Switzerland

M. Backhaus, L. Bäni, P. Berger, N. Chernyavskaya, G. Dissertori, M. Dittmar, M. Donegà, C. Dorfer, C. Grab, C. Heidegger, D. Hits, J. Hoss, T. Klijnsma, W. Lustermaan, R.A. Manzoni, M. Marionneau, M.T. Meinhard, F. Micheli, P. Musella, F. Nessi-Tedaldi, J. Pata, F. Pauss, G. Perrin, L. Perrozzi, S. Pigazzini, M. Quittnat, D. Ruini, D.A. Sanz Becerra, M. Schönenberger, L. Shchutska, V.R. Tavolaro, K. Theofilatos, M.L. Vesterbacka Olsson, R. Wallny, D.H. Zhu

Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland

T.K. Aarrestad, C. AMSler⁴⁹, D. Brzhechko, M.F. Canelli, A. De Cosa, R. Del Burgo, S. Donato, C. Galloni, T. Hreus, B. Kilminster, I. Neutelings, D. Pinna, G. Rauco, P. Robmann, D. Salerno, K. Schweiger, C. Seitz, Y. Takahashi, A. Zucchetta

National Central University, Chung-Li, Taiwan

Y.H. Chang, K.y. Cheng, T.H. Doan, Sh. Jain, R. Khurana, C.M. Kuo, W. Lin, A. Pozdnyakov, S.S. Yu

National Taiwan University (NTU), Taipei, Taiwan

P. Chang, Y. Chao, K.F. Chen, P.H. Chen, W.-S. Hou, Arun Kumar, Y.y. Li, Y.F. Liu, R.-S. Lu, E. Paganis, A. Psallidas, A. Steen, J.f. Tsai

Chulalongkorn University, Faculty of Science, Department of Physics, Bangkok, Thailand

B. Asavapibhop, N. Srimanobhas, N. Suwonjandee

ukurova University, Physics Department, Science and Art Faculty, Adana, Turkey

M.N. Bakirci⁵⁰, A. Bat, F. Boran, S. Cerci⁵¹, S. Damarseckin, Z.S. Demiroglu, F. Dolek, C. Dozen, I. Dumanoglu, E. Eskut, S. Girgis, G. Gokbulut, Y. Guler, E. Gurpinar, I. Hos⁵², C. Isik, E.E. Kangal⁵³, O. Kara, A. Kayis Topaksu, U. Kiminsu, M. Oglakci, G. Onengut, K. Ozdemir⁵⁴, A. Polatoz, U.G. Tok, S. Turkcapar, I.S. Zorbakir, C. Zorbilmez

Middle East Technical University, Physics Department, Ankara, Turkey

B. Isildak⁵⁵, G. Karapinar⁵⁶, M. Yalvac, M. Zeyrek

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey

I.O. Atakisi, E. Gülmez, M. Kaya⁵⁷, O. Kaya⁵⁸, S. Ozkorucuklu⁵⁹, S. Tekten, E.A. Yetkin⁶⁰

Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey

M.N. Agarar, S. Atay, A. Cakir, K. Cankocak, Y. Komurcu, S. Sen⁶¹

Institute for Scintillation Materials of National Academy of Science of Ukraine, Kharkov, Ukraine

B. Grynyov

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

L. Levchuk

University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom

F. Ball, L. Beck, J.J. Brooke, D. Burns, E. Clement, D. Cussans, O. Davignon, H. Flacher, J. Goldstein, G.P. Heath, H.F. Heath, L. Kreczko, D.M. Newbold⁶², S. Paramesvaran, B. Penning, T. Sakuma, D. Smith, V.J. Smith, J. Taylor, A. Titterton

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom

A. Belyaev⁶³, C. Brew, R.M. Brown, D. Cieri, D.J.A. Cockerill, J.A. Coughlan, K. Harder, S. Harper, J. Linacre, E. Olaiya, D. Petyt, C.H. Shepherd-Themistocleous, A. Thea, I.R. Tomalin, T. Williams, W.J. Womersley

Imperial College, London, United Kingdom

G. Auzinger, R. Bainbridge, P. Bloch, J. Borg, S. Breeze, O. Buchmuller, A. Bundock, S. Casasso, D. Colling, L. Corpe, P. Dauncey, G. Davies, M. Della Negra, R. Di Maria, Y. Haddad, G. Hall, G. Iles, T. James, M. Komm, C. Laner, L. Lyons, A.-M. Magnan, S. Malik, A. Martelli, J. Nash⁶⁴, A. Nikitenko⁷, V. Palladino, M. Pesaresi, A. Richards, A. Rose, E. Scott, C. Seez, A. Shtipliyski, G. Singh, M. Stoye, T. Strebler, S. Summers, A. Tapper, K. Uchida, T. Virdee¹⁶, N. Wardle, D. Winterbottom, J. Wright, S.C. Zenz

Brunel University, Uxbridge, United Kingdom

J.E. Cole, P.R. Hobson, A. Khan, P. Kyberd, C.K. Mackay, A. Morton, I.D. Reid, L. Teodorescu, S. Zahid

Baylor University, Waco, USA

K. Call, J. Dittmann, K. Hatakeyama, H. Liu, C. Madrid, B. McMaster, N. Pastika, C. Smith

Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, USA

R. Bartek, A. Dominguez

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA

A. Buccilli, S.I. Cooper, C. Henderson, P. Rumerio, C. West

Boston University, Boston, USA

D. Arcaro, T. Bose, D. Gastler, D. Rankin, C. Richardson, J. Rohlf, L. Sulak, D. Zou

Brown University, Providence, USA

G. Benelli, X. Coubez, D. Cutts, M. Hadley, J. Hakala, U. Heintz, J.M. Hogan⁶⁵, K.H.M. Kwok, E. Laird, G. Landsberg, J. Lee, Z. Mao, M. Narain, S. Piperov, S. Sagir⁶⁶, R. Syarif, E. Usai, D. Yu

University of California, Davis, Davis, USA

R. Band, C. Brainerd, R. Breedon, D. Burns, M. Calderon De La Barca Sanchez, M. Chertok, J. Conway, R. Conway, P.T. Cox, R. Erbacher, C. Flores, G. Funk, W. Ko, O. Kukral, R. Lander, C. Mclean, M. Mulhearn, D. Pellett, J. Pilot, S. Shalhout, M. Shi, D. Stolp, D. Taylor, K. Tos, M. Tripathi, Z. Wang

University of California, Los Angeles, USA

M. Bachtis, C. Bravo, R. Cousins, A. Dasgupta, A. Florent, J. Hauser, M. Ignatenko, N. Mccoll, S. Regnard, D. Saltzberg, C. Schnaible, V. Valuev

University of California, Riverside, Riverside, USA

E. Bouvier, K. Burt, R. Clare, J.W. Gary, S.M.A. Ghiasi Shirazi, G. Hanson, G. Karapostoli, E. Kennedy, F. Lacroix, O.R. Long, M. Olmedo Negrete, M.I. Paneva, W. Si, L. Wang, H. Wei, S. Wimpenny, B.R. Yates

University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, USA

J.G. Branson, S. Cittolin, M. Derdzinski, R. Gerosa, D. Gilbert, B. Hashemi, A. Holzner, D. Klein, G. Kole, V. Krutelyov, J. Letts, M. Masciovecchio, D. Olivito, S. Padhi, M. Pieri, M. Sani, V. Sharma, S. Simon, M. Tadel, A. Vartak, S. Wasserbaech⁶⁷, J. Wood, F. Würthwein, A. Yagil, G. Zevi Della Porta

University of California, Santa Barbara - Department of Physics, Santa Barbara, USA

N. Amin, R. Bhandari, J. Bradmiller-Feld, C. Campagnari, M. Citron, A. Dishaw, V. Dutta, M. Franco Sevilla, L. Gouskos, R. Heller, J. Incandela, A. Ovcharova, H. Qu, J. Richman, D. Stuart, I. Suarez, S. Wang, J. Yoo

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA

D. Anderson, A. Bornheim, J.M. Lawhorn, H.B. Newman, T.Q. Nguyen, M. Spiropulu, J.R. Vlimant, R. Wilkinson, S. Xie, Z. Zhang, R.Y. Zhu

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA

M.B. Andrews, T. Ferguson, T. Mudholkar, M. Paulini, M. Sun, I. Vorobiev, M. Weinberg

University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, USA

J.P. Cumalat, W.T. Ford, F. Jensen, A. Johnson, M. Krohn, S. Leontsinis, E. MacDonald, T. Mulholland, K. Stenson, K.A. Ulmer, S.R. Wagner

Cornell University, Ithaca, USA

J. Alexander, J. Chaves, Y. Cheng, J. Chu, A. Datta, K. Mcdermott, N. Mirman, J.R. Patterson, D. Quach, A. Rinkevicius, A. Ryd, L. Skinnari, L. Soffi, S.M. Tan, Z. Tao, J. Thom, J. Tucker, P. Wittich, M. Zientek

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, USA

S. Abdullin, M. Albrow, M. Alyari, G. Apollinari, A. Apresyan, A. Apyan, S. Banerjee, L.A.T. Bauerdick, A. Beretvas, J. Berryhill, P.C. Bhat, G. Bolla[†], K. Burkett, J.N. Butler, A. Canepa, G.B. Cerati, H.W.K. Cheung, F. Chlebana, M. Cremonesi, J. Duarte, V.D. Elvira, J. Freeman, Z. Gecse, E. Gottschalk, L. Gray, D. Green, S. Grünendahl, O. Gutsche, J. Hanlon, R.M. Harris, S. Hasegawa, J. Hirschauer, Z. Hu, B. Jayatilaka, S. Jindariani, M. Johnson, U. Joshi, B. Klima, M.J. Kortelainen, B. Kreis, S. Lammel, D. Lincoln, R. Lipton, M. Liu, T. Liu, J. Lykken, K. Maeshima, J.M. Marraffino, D. Mason, P. McBride, P. Merkel, S. Mrenna, S. Nahn, V. O'Dell, K. Pedro, C. Pena, O. Prokofyev, G. Rakness, L. Ristori, A. Savoy-Navarro⁶⁸, B. Schneider, E. Sexton-Kennedy, A. Soha, W.J. Spalding, L. Spiegel, S. Stoynev, J. Strait, N. Strobbe, L. Taylor, S. Tkaczyk, N.V. Tran, L. Uplegger, E.W. Vaandering, C. Vernieri, M. Verzocchi, R. Vidal, M. Wang, H.A. Weber, A. Whitbeck

University of Florida, Gainesville, USA

D. Acosta, P. Avery, P. Bortignon, D. Bourilkov, A. Brinkerhoff, L. Cadamuro, A. Carnes, M. Carver, D. Curry, R.D. Field, S.V. Gleyzer, B.M. Joshi, J. Konigsberg, A. Korytov, P. Ma, K. Matchev, H. Mei, G. Mitselmakher, K. Shi, D. Sperka, J. Wang, S. Wang

Florida International University, Miami, USA

Y.R. Joshi, S. Linn

Florida State University, Tallahassee, USA

A. Ackert, T. Adams, A. Askew, S. Hagopian, V. Hagopian, K.F. Johnson, T. Kolberg, G. Martinez, T. Perry, H. Prosper, A. Saha, V. Sharma, R. Yohay

Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, USA

M.M. Baarmand, V. Bhopatkar, S. Colafranceschi, M. Hohlmann, D. Noonan, M. Rahmani, T. Roy, F. Yumiceva

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

M.R. Adams, L. Apanasevich, D. Berry, R.R. Betts, R. Cavanaugh, X. Chen, S. Dittmer, O. Evdokimov, C.E. Gerber, D.A. Hangal, D.J. Hofman, K. Jung, J. Kamin, C. Mills, I.D. Sandoval Gonzalez, M.B. Tonjes, N. Varelas, H. Wang, X. Wang, Z. Wu, J. Zhang

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA

M. Alhusseini, B. Bilki⁶⁹, W. Clarida, K. Dilsiz⁷⁰, S. Durgut, R.P. Gandrajula, M. Haytmyradov, V. Khristenko, J.-P. Merlo, A. Mestvirishvili, A. Moeller, J. Nachtman, H. Ogul⁷¹, Y. Onel, F. Ozok⁷², A. Penzo, C. Snyder, E. Tiras, J. Wetzel

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA

B. Blumenfeld, A. Cocoros, N. Eminizer, D. Fehling, L. Feng, A.V. Gritsan, W.T. Hung, P. Maksimovic, J. Roskes, U. Sarica, M. Swartz, M. Xiao, C. You

The University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA

A. Al-bataineh, P. Baringer, A. Bean, S. Boren, J. Bowen, A. Bylinkin, J. Castle, S. Khalil, A. Kropivnitskaya, D. Majumder, W. Mcbrayer, M. Murray, C. Rogan, S. Sanders, E. Schmitz, J.D. Tapia Takaki, Q. Wang

Kansas State University, Manhattan, USA

S. Duric, A. Ivanov, K. Kaadze, D. Kim, Y. Maravin, D.R. Mendis, T. Mitchell, A. Modak, A. Mohammadi, L.K. Saini, N. Skhirtladze

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, USA

F. Rebassoo, D. Wright

University of Maryland, College Park, USA

A. Baden, O. Baron, A. Belloni, S.C. Eno, Y. Feng, C. Ferraioli, N.J. Hadley, S. Jabeen, G.Y. Jeng, R.G. Kellogg, J. Kunkle, A.C. Mignerey, F. Ricci-Tam, Y.H. Shin, A. Skuja, S.C. Tonwar, K. Wong

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA

D. Abercrombie, B. Allen, V. Azzolini, A. Baty, G. Bauer, R. Bi, S. Brandt, W. Busza, I.A. Cali, M. D'Alfonso, Z. Demiragli, G. Gomez Ceballos, M. Goncharov, P. Harris, D. Hsu, M. Hu, Y. Iiyama, G.M. Innocenti, M. Klute, D. Kovalskyi, Y.-J. Lee, P.D. Luckey, B. Maier, A.C. Marini, C. McGinn, C. Mironov, S. Narayanan, X. Niu, C. Paus, C. Roland, G. Roland, G.S.F. Stephans, K. Sumorok, K. Tatar, D. Velicanu, J. Wang, T.W. Wang, B. Wyslouch, S. Zhaozhong

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

A.C. Benvenuti, R.M. Chatterjee, A. Evans, P. Hansen, S. Kalafut, Y. Kubota, Z. Lesko, J. Mans, S. Nourbakhsh, N. Ruckstuhl, R. Rusack, J. Turkewitz, M.A. Wadud

University of Mississippi, Oxford, USA

J.G. Acosta, S. Oliveros

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, USA

E. Avdeeva, K. Bloom, D.R. Claes, C. Fangmeier, F. Golf, R. Gonzalez Suarez, R. Kamalieddin, I. Kravchenko, J. Monroy, J.E. Siado, G.R. Snow, B. Stieger

State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, USA

A. Godshalk, C. Harrington, I. Iashvili, A. Kharchilava, D. Nguyen, A. Parker, S. Rappoccio, B. Roozbahani

Northeastern University, Boston, USA

G. Alverson, E. Barberis, C. Freer, A. Hortiangtham, D.M. Morse, T. Orimoto, R. Teixeira De Lima, T. Wamorkar, B. Wang, A. Wisecarver, D. Wood

Northwestern University, Evanston, USA

S. Bhattacharya, O. Charaf, K.A. Hahn, N. Mucia, N. Odell, M.H. Schmitt, K. Sung, M. Trovato, M. Velasco

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, USA

R. Bucci, N. Dev, M. Hildreth, K. Hurtado Anampa, C. Jessop, D.J. Karmgard, N. Kellams, K. Lannon, W. Li, N. Loukas, N. Marinelli, F. Meng, C. Mueller, Y. Musienko³⁵, M. Planer, A. Reinsvold, R. Ruchti, P. Siddireddy, G. Smith, S. Taroni, M. Wayne, A. Wightman, M. Wolf, A. Woodard

The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA

J. Alimena, L. Antonelli, B. Bylsma, L.S. Durkin, S. Flowers, B. Francis, A. Hart, C. Hill, W. Ji, T.Y. Ling, W. Luo, B.L. Winer, H.W. Wulsin

Princeton University, Princeton, USA

S. Cooperstein, P. Elmer, J. Hardenbrook, P. Hebda, S. Higginbotham, A. Kalogeropoulos, D. Lange, M.T. Lucchini, J. Luo, D. Marlow, K. Mei, I. Ojalvo, J. Olsen, C. Palmer, P. Piroué, J. Salfeld-Nebgen, D. Stickland, C. Tully

University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, USA

S. Malik, S. Norberg

Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA

A. Barker, V.E. Barnes, S. Das, L. Gutay, M. Jones, A.W. Jung, A. Khatiwada, B. Mahakud, D.H. Miller, N. Neumeister, C.C. Peng, H. Qiu, J.F. Schulte, J. Sun, F. Wang, R. Xiao, W. Xie

Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, USA

T. Cheng, J. Dolen, N. Parashar

Rice University, Houston, USA

Z. Chen, K.M. Ecklund, S. Freed, F.J.M. Geurts, M. Kilpatrick, W. Li, B. Michlin, B.P. Padley, J. Roberts, J. Rorie, W. Shi, Z. Tu, J. Zabel, A. Zhang

University of Rochester, Rochester, USA

A. Bodek, P. de Barbaro, R. Demina, Y.t. Duh, J.L. Dulemba, C. Fallon, T. Ferbel, M. Galanti, A. Garcia-Bellido, J. Han, O. Hindrichs, A. Khukhunaishvili, K.H. Lo, P. Tan, R. Taus, M. Verzetti

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

A. Agapitos, J.P. Chou, Y. Gershtein, T.A. Gómez Espinosa, E. Halkiadakis, M. Heindl, E. Hughes, S. Kaplan, R. Kunnawalkam Elayavalli, S. Kyriacou, A. Lath, R. Montalvo, K. Nash, M. Osherson, H. Saka, S. Salur, S. Schnetzer, D. Sheffield, S. Somalwar, R. Stone, S. Thomas, P. Thomassen, M. Walker

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA

A.G. Delannoy, J. Heideman, G. Riley, K. Rose, S. Spanier, K. Thapa

Texas A&M University, College Station, USA

O. Bouhali⁷³, A. Celik, M. Dalchenko, M. De Mattia, A. Delgado, S. Dildick, R. Eusebi, J. Gilmore, T. Huang, T. Kamon⁷⁴, S. Luo, R. Mueller, Y. Pakhotin, R. Patel, A. Perloff, L. Perniè, D. Rathjens, A. Safonov, A. Tatarinov

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, USA

N. Akchurin, J. Damgov, F. De Guio, P.R. Duderov, S. Kunori, K. Lamichhane, S.W. Lee, T. Mengke, S. Muthumuni, T. Peltola, S. Undleeb, I. Volobouev, Z. Wang

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA

S. Greene, A. Gurrola, R. Janjam, W. Johns, C. Maguire, A. Melo, H. Ni, K. Padeken, J.D. Ruiz Alvarez, P. Sheldon, S. Tuo, J. Velkovska, M. Verweij, Q. Xu

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA

M.W. Arenton, P. Barria, B. Cox, R. Hirosky, M. Joyce, A. Ledovskoy, H. Li, C. Neu, T. Sinthuprasith, Y. Wang, E. Wolfe, F. Xia

Wayne State University, Detroit, USA

R. Harr, P.E. Karchin, N. Poudyal, J. Sturdy, P. Thapa, S. Zaleski

University of Wisconsin - Madison, Madison, WI, USA

M. Brodski, J. Buchanan, C. Caillol, D. Carlsmith, S. Dasu, L. Dodd, B. Gomber, M. Grothe, M. Herndon, A. Hervé, U. Hussain, P. Klabbers, A. Lanaro, A. Levine, K. Long, R. Loveless, T. Ruggles, A. Savin, N. Smith, W.H. Smith, N. Woods

†: Deceased

1: Also at Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria

2: Also at IRFU, CEA, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France

3: Also at Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, Brazil

4: Also at Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil

5: Also at Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium

6: Also at University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China

7: Also at Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics named by A.I. Alikhanov of NRC 'Kurchatov Institute', Moscow, Russia

8: Also at Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia

9: Now at Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt

10: Also at Fayoum University, El-Fayoum, Egypt

11: Now at British University in Egypt, Cairo, Egypt

12: Now at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt

13: Also at Department of Physics, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

14: Also at Université de Haute Alsace, Mulhouse, France

15: Also at Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia

16: Also at CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland

17: Also at RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut A, Aachen, Germany

18: Also at University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

19: Also at Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus, Germany

20: Also at MTA-ELTE Lendület CMS Particle and Nuclear Physics Group, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary, Budapest, Hungary

21: Also at Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary

- 22: Also at Institute of Physics, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary, Debrecen, Hungary
- 23: Also at IIT Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar, India, Bhubaneswar, India
- 24: Also at Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, India
- 25: Also at Shoolini University, Solan, India
- 26: Also at University of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India
- 27: Also at Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran
- 28: Also at Plasma Physics Research Center, Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran
- 29: Also at Università degli Studi di Siena, Siena, Italy
- 30: Also at Kyung Hee University, Department of Physics, Seoul, Korea
- 31: Also at International Islamic University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 32: Also at Malaysian Nuclear Agency, MOSTI, Kajang, Malaysia
- 33: Also at Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Mexico City, Mexico
- 34: Also at Warsaw University of Technology, Institute of Electronic Systems, Warsaw, Poland
- 35: Also at Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia
- 36: Now at National Research Nuclear University 'Moscow Engineering Physics Institute' (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia
- 37: Also at Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- 38: Also at St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University, St. Petersburg, Russia
- 39: Also at University of Florida, Gainesville, USA
- 40: Also at P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia
- 41: Also at Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, Novosibirsk, Russia
- 42: Also at Faculty of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
- 43: Also at INFN Sezione di Pavia ^a, Università di Pavia ^b, Pavia, Italy, Pavia, Italy
- 44: Also at University of Belgrade: Faculty of Physics and VINCA Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia
- 45: Also at Scuola Normale e Sezione dell'INFN, Pisa, Italy
- 46: Also at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece
- 47: Also at Riga Technical University, Riga, Latvia, Riga, Latvia
- 48: Also at Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland
- 49: Also at Stefan Meyer Institute for Subatomic Physics, Vienna, Austria, Vienna, Austria
- 50: Also at Gaziosmanpasa University, Tokat, Turkey
- 51: Also at Adiyaman University, Adiyaman, Turkey
- 52: Also at Istanbul Aydin University, Istanbul, Turkey
- 53: Also at Mersin University, Mersin, Turkey
- 54: Also at Piri Reis University, Istanbul, Turkey
- 55: Also at Ozyegin University, Istanbul, Turkey
- 56: Also at Izmir Institute of Technology, Izmir, Turkey
- 57: Also at Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey
- 58: Also at Kafkas University, Kars, Turkey
- 59: Also at Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey
- 60: Also at Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey
- 61: Also at Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey
- 62: Also at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
- 63: Also at School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom
- 64: Also at Monash University, Faculty of Science, Clayton, Australia

- 65: Also at Bethel University, St. Paul, Minneapolis, USA, St. Paul, USA
66: Also at Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University, Karaman, Turkey
67: Also at Utah Valley University, Orem, USA
68: Also at Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA
69: Also at Beykent University, Istanbul, Turkey, Istanbul, Turkey
70: Also at Bingol University, Bingol, Turkey
71: Also at Sinop University, Sinop, Turkey
72: Also at Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey
73: Also at Texas A&M University at Qatar, Doha, Qatar
74: Also at Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea, Daegu, Korea