Combination of searches for heavy resonances decaying into bosonic and leptonic final states using 36 fb(-1) of proton-proton collision data at root s=13 TeV with the ATLAS detector

Aaboud, M.; Aad, G.; Abbott, B.; Abdinov, O.; Abeloos, B; Abhayasinghe, DK; Abidi, S.H.; Abouzeid, Ossama Sherif Alexander; Abraham, NL; Abramowicz, H.; Abreu, H.; Abulaiti, Y.; Acharya, B.S.; Adachi, Shin-ichi; Adamczyk, L.; Adelman, J.; Adersberger, M.; Adiguzel, A.; Adye, T.; Affolder, A. A.; Afik, Y.; Besjes, Geert-Jan; Bajic, Milena; Alonso Diaz, Alejandro; de Almeida Dias, Flavia; Dam, Mogens; Hansen, Peter Henrik; Hansen, Jørn Dines; Hansen, Jørgen Beck; Galster, Gorm Aske Gram Krohn; Monk, James William; Petersen, Troels Christian; Thiele, Fabian A.J.; Xella, Stefania; Stark, Simon Holm; Wiglesworth, Graig

Published in:
Physical Review D

DOI:
10.1103/PhysRevD.98.052008

Publication date:
2018

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Citation for published version (APA):
Combination of searches for heavy resonances decaying into bosonic and leptonic final states using 36 fb$^{-1}$ of proton-proton collision data at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV with the ATLAS detector

M. Aaboud et al.*
(ATLAS Collaboration)

(Received 8 August 2018; published 26 September 2018)

Searches for new heavy resonances decaying into different pairings of W, Z, or Higgs bosons, as well as directly into leptons, are presented using a data sample corresponding to 36.1 fb$^{-1}$ of pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV collected during 2015 and 2016 with the ATLAS detector at the CERN Large Hadron Collider. Analyses selecting bosonic decay modes in the $qqqq$, $vvqq$, $\ell\ell qq$, $\ell\ell$,$v\nu$, $\ell\ell v\nu$, $\ell\ell l\ell$, $\ell\ell l\ell$, $qqbb$, $\nu\nu bb$, $\ell\ell bb$, and $\ell\ell bb$ final states are combined, searching for a narrow-width resonance. Likewise, analyses selecting the leptonic $\ell\ell$ and $\ell\ell$ final states are also combined. These two sets of analyses are then further combined. No significant deviation from the Standard Model predictions is observed. Three benchmark models are tested: a model predicting the existence of a new heavy scalar singlet, a simplified model predicting a heavy vector-boson triplet, and a bulk Randall-Sundrum model with a heavy spin-2 Kaluza-Klein excitation of the graviton. Cross section limits are set at the 95% confidence level using an asymptotic approximation and are compared with predictions for the benchmark models. These limits are also expressed in terms of constraints on couplings of the heavy vector-boson triplet to quarks, leptons, and the Higgs boson. The data exclude a heavy vector-boson triplet with mass below 5.5 TeV in a weakly coupled scenario and 4.5 TeV in a strongly coupled scenario, as well as a Kaluza-Klein graviton with mass below 2.3 TeV.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevD.98.052008

I. INTRODUCTION

The search for new heavy particles is an important part of the physics program at the LHC and has been the focus of an intense effort to uncover physics beyond the Standard Model (SM) in a broad range of final states. Many of these searches are motivated by models aiming to resolve the hierarchy problem such as the Randall-Sundrum (RS) model with a warped extra dimension [1], by models with extended Higgs sectors as in the two-Higgs-doublet model [2], or by models with composite Higgs bosons [3] or extended gauge sectors as in Grand Unified Theories [4–6].

Although no significant excess has been observed to date, strong constraints have been placed on the production of such new heavy particles. A combination of searches for the production of heavy resonances decaying into the $VV$ (with $V = W$ or $Z$) final state in proton-proton ($pp$) collisions at a center-of-mass energy $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 3.2 fb$^{-1}$ has been published by the ATLAS Collaboration [7]. Similarly, a combination of searches in the $VV$ and $VH$ (with $H$ representing the SM Higgs boson) final states obtained with 19.7 fb$^{-1}$ at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV and 2.7 fb$^{-1}$ at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV has been published by the CMS Collaboration [8]. In this article, the combination is broadened to include the results of not only the $VV$ and $VH$ searches but lepton-antilepton searches as well. It uses the most recent ATLAS results obtained at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV with an integrated luminosity of approximately 36 fb$^{-1}$. A combination with a broader set of final states allows one to explore the complementarity of these searches and set stronger constraints over a wider range of models of physics beyond the SM. Several diagrams illustrating the production and decay of new heavy resonances are shown in Fig. 1.

The specific searches combined in this article are those performed in the $VV$ channels $WZ \rightarrow qqqq [9]$, $\ell\ell qq$ [10], $\ell\ell l\ell$ [11]; $WW \rightarrow qqqq [9]$, $\ell\ell qq$ [10], $\ell\ell v\nu$ [12]; and $ZZ \rightarrow qqqq [9]$, $v\nu qq$ [13], $\ell\ell qq$ [13], $\ell\ell v\nu$ [14], $\ell\ell l\ell$ [14] and the $VH$ channels $WH \rightarrow qgbb$ [15], $\ell\ell bb$ [16] and $ZH \rightarrow qgbb$ [15], $\nu\nu bb$ [16], $\ell\ell bb$ [16], as well as the lepton-antilepton channels $\ell\ell$ [17] and $\ell\ell$ [18]. The charged leptons $\ell$ are either electrons or muons. For the $VV$ and $VH$ decay channels involving leptonic decays of vector bosons, $\tau$-leptons are included as part of the signal since $\tau$-lepton decays into electrons or muons provide a small amount of additional acceptance. The impact of

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

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r-leptons is very small and neglected in other channels. In this article, the \(VV\) and \(VH\) decay channels are collectively named “bosonic,” whereas the lepton-antilepton decay channels are collectively named “leptonic.” The analyses generally search for narrow resonances in the final-state mass distribution with the signal shape extracted from Monte Carlo (MC) simulation of specific models. The background shape and normalization are extracted from a combination of MC simulation and data, often relying on dedicated control regions to extract the various background contributions. The mass distributions and associated systematic uncertainties from the various channels are combined taking correlations into account, as described below.

II. SIGNAL MODELS

The results presented in this article are interpreted in the context of three models: the heavy vector triplet (HVT) model [19,20], the RS model, and an empirical model featuring a new heavy scalar.

The HVT model provides a broad phenomenological framework that encompasses a range of different scenarios involving new heavy gauge bosons and their couplings to SM fermions and bosons. In this model, a triplet \(W\) of colorless vector bosons is introduced with zero hypercharge. This leads to a set of nearly degenerate charged, \(W^\pm\), and neutral, \(\Gamma\), states collectively denoted by \(\nu\).\(^1\) For the interpretation performed in this article, the \(\nu\) and \(\Gamma\) masses are taken to be the same. The model allows one to explore different coupling strengths of those states to quarks, leptons, vector bosons, and Higgs bosons with the following interaction Lagrangian,

\[
\mathcal{L}_{int}^{\nu} = -g_{\nu} \mathcal{W}_\mu^{\nu} \bar{q}_k \gamma^\mu \tilde{\sigma}_a q_k - g_{\nu} \mathcal{W}_\mu^{\nu} \tilde{c}_k \gamma^\mu \tilde{\sigma}_a \tilde{c}_k
\]

where \(q_k\) and \(\tilde{c}_k\) represent the left-handed quark and lepton doublets for fermion generation \(k (k = 1, 2, 3)\); \(H\) represents the Higgs doublet; \(\tilde{\sigma}_a\) \((a = 1, 2, 3)\) are the Pauli matrices; and \(g_{\nu}\), \(g_\nu\), and \(g_{\nu H}\) correspond to the coupling strengths between the triplet field \(\nu\) and the quark, lepton, and Higgs fields, respectively. \(^2\) Interactions with fermions of different generations are assumed to be universal, and right-handed fermions do not participate.

The triplet field interacts with the Higgs field and thus with the longitudinally polarized \(W\) and \(Z\) bosons by virtue of the equivalence theorem [21–23]. In this framework, the branching fractions for the decays \(W' \to WZ, W' \to WH, Z' \to WW\), and \(Z' \to ZH\), are equal for \(W'\) masses above 1.5 TeV and other neutral diboson final states are either suppressed or forbidden.

Three explicit HVT scenarios are used as benchmarks for interpretation of the results. The first two benchmarks are both Drell-Yan (DY) production mechanisms [Figs. 1(a) and 1(b)], while the third benchmark proceeds via the vector-boson fusion (VBF) mechanism [Fig. 1(c)]. Within the DY processes, two scenarios differently emphasize the relative strengths of \(g_{\nu}\) and \(g_\nu\). The first DY scenario, referred to as model A, reproduces the phenomenology of weakly coupled models based on an extended gauge symmetry [24]. In this case, the couplings are \(g_{\nu} = -0.56\) and \(g_\nu = -0.55\), with the universal fermion coupling \(g_\nu = g_{\nu H} = g_{\nu\

\(^{1}\)The charged state is denoted \(W\) in the remainder of this article.

\(^{2}\)The coupling constants \(g_{\nu}, g_\nu, g_{\nu H}\), and \(g_{\nu\

\(^{3}\)In model B, the \(W'\) resonances are broader than in the weakly coupled scenario, model A, but remain narrow relative to the experimental resolution. The relative width, \(\Gamma/m\), is below 5% over much of the parameter space explored in this article. Model B is not considered for masses below 1500 GeV because model A is used to extract the acceptance of the combined channels, and the branching fractions to \(VV\) and \(VH\) differ between models A and B in that mass range. The acceptance for individual channels is the same for models A and B. There is also a second constraint for model B, for masses below 800 GeV, where it
is not compatible with SM precision measurements due to increased mixing between the SM gauge bosons and the heavy vector resonance.

For the DY process with decay of the $V'$ into lepton-antilepton final states, branching fractions are largest in model A with values of approximately 4% and only about 0.2% in model B, for each generation taken separately. In contrast, the branching fractions for decays into individual diboson channels are about 2% in model A, whereas they are close to 50% in model B.

The third scenario, referred to as model C, is designed to focus solely on the rare process of vector-boson fusion. In this case, the $V'$ resonance couplings are set to $g_H = 1$ and $g_f = 0$. Model C is therefore in a separate phase space domain to models A and B and assumes no DY production. The interpretation can be extended beyond these three benchmark models by considering the two-dimensional parameter space consisting of $g_H$ and $g_f$ (assuming fermion universality) or $g_q$ and $g_{\ell\ell}$ for a given value of $g_H$. The different production mechanisms and decay modes included here provide sensitivity to different regions of this parameter space, with production via the DY process providing sensitivity to $g_q$ and production via VBF providing sensitivity to $g_H$. Likewise, decays into lepton-antilepton states provide sensitivity to $g_{\ell\ell}$, whereas decays into diboson states provide sensitivity to $g_H$.

The RS model postulates the existence of a warped extra dimension in which only gravity propagates as in the original “RS1” scenario [1] or in which both gravity and all SM fields propagate as in the “bulk RS” scenario [25]. Propagation in the extra dimension leads to a tower of Kaluza-Klein (KK) excitations of gravitons (denoted $G_{KK}$) and SM fields. In the bulk RS model considered here, KK gravitons are produced via both quark-antiquark annihilation and gluon-gluon fusion (ggF), with the latter dominating due to suppressed couplings to light fermions. The strength of the coupling depends on $k/M_{Pl}$, where $k$ corresponds to the curvature of the warped extra dimension and $M_{Pl} = 2.4 \times 10^{18}$ GeV is the effective four-dimensional Planck scale. Both the production cross section and decay width of the KK graviton scale as the square of $k/M_{Pl}$. For the value $k/M_{Pl} = 1$ used in the interpretation, the $G_{KK}$ resonance width relative to its mass is approximately 6%. The $G_{KK}$ branching fraction is largest for decays into the $t\bar{t}$ final state, with values ranging from 42% for $m(G_{KK}) = 0.5$ TeV to 65% for $m(G_{KK})$ values above 1 TeV. Corresponding values for the WW (ZZ) final state range from 34% to 20% (18% to 10%). Table I presents production cross sections for several heavy resonance masses in the HVT models A, B, and C and the bulk RS model.

The last model considered is an empirical model with a narrow heavy scalar resonance produced via the ggF and VBF mechanisms and decaying directly into $VV$. The width of this new scalar is assumed to be negligible compared with the detector resolution, and the relative branching fractions for decay into the WW and ZZ final states approximately follow a 2:1 ratio. This benchmark is used to explore sensitivity to extended Higgs sectors. Table II summarizes the channels considered in the interpretation for each signal model.

### III. ATLAS DETECTOR

The ATLAS experiment [26,27] at the LHC is a multipurpose particle detector with a forward-backward symmetric cylindrical geometry and a near $4\pi$ coverage in solid angle. It consists of an inner detector for tracking the interpretation, the scalar is defined in terms of the polar angle $\theta$ and the azimuthal angle $\phi$. Angular distance is measured in units of $\Delta R \equiv \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2}$.
surrounded by a thin superconducting solenoid providing a 2 T axial magnetic field, electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters, and a muon spectrometer. The inner detector covers the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 2.5$. It consists of silicon pixel, silicon microstrip, and transitionradiation tracking detectors. A new innermost pixel layer [27] inserted at a radius of 3.3 cm has been used since 2015. Lead/liquid-argon (LAr) sampling calorimeters provide electromagnetic (EM) energy measurements with high granularity. A hadronic (steel/scintillator-tile) calorimeter covers the central pseudorapidity range $(|\eta| < 1.7)$. The end cap and forward regions are instrumented with LAr calorimeters for both the EM and hadronic energy measurements up to $|\eta| = 4.9$. The muon spectrometer surrounds the calorimeters and features three large air-core toroidal superconducting magnet systems with eight coils each. The field integral of the toroids ranges between 2.0 and 6.0 Tm across most of the detector. The muon spectrometer includes a system of precision tracking chambers up to $|\eta| = 2.7$ and fast detectors for triggering up to $|\eta| = 2.4$. A two-level trigger system [28] is used to select events. The first-level trigger is implemented in hardware and uses a subset of the detector information to reduce the accepted rate to at most 100 kHz. This is followed by a software-based trigger level that reduces the accepted event rate to 1 kHz on average.

IV. DATA AND MONTE CARLO SIMULATION

The data sample was collected by the ATLAS detector during the $pp$ collision running of the LHC at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV in 2015 and 2016. Events were selected for the different channels with various triggers, as described in their respective papers [9–18]. Channels featuring charged or neutral leptons were selected with single or multiple electron and muon triggers with various $p_T$ thresholds and isolation requirements or with missing transverse momentum triggers with varying thresholds. A high-$p_T$ jet trigger was used in the fully hadronic channels. After requiring that the data were collected during stable beam conditions and with a functional detector, the integrated luminosity amounts to 36.1 fb$^{-1}$.

The interpretation in the combined channels relies on MC simulation to model the shape and normalization of the signals described in Sec. II. Signal events for the HVT and bulk RS models were generated with MadGraph5_aMC@NLO v2.2.2 [29] at leading order (LO) using the NNPDF23LO parton distribution function (PDF) set [30]. For the production of resonances in the HVT model, both the DY and VBF mechanisms were simulated, whereas for the bulk RS model, $G_{KK}$ resonances were produced via the ggF and DY mechanisms. In the case of the heavy scalar model, signal events were generated at next-to-leading order (NLO) via the ggF and VBF mechanisms with Powheg-Box v1 [31,32] and the CT10 PDF set [33]. The ggF/DY and VBF processes were simulated as independent MC samples. For all signal models and production mechanisms, the generated events were interfaced to Pythia8.186 [34] for parton showering, hadronization, and the underlying event. This interface relied on the A14 set of tuned parameters [35] for events generated with MadGraph5_aMC@NLO at LO and the AZNLO set of tuned parameters [36] for events generated with Powheg-Box at NLO. Interference between the signal events and SM processes was not taken into account as the results for the bosonic channels are expected to change negligibly for the models considered since they predict narrow resonances. The particular case of $\ell\nu$ and $\ell\ell$ channels is discussed in Sec. VI. Examples of generator-level signal mass distributions are shown in Fig. 2.

Simulated background event samples are used to derive the main background estimates in the case of analyses in the $\ell\nu$, $\ell\ell$, $\ell\ell\ell$, and $\ell\ell\ell\ell$ channels and to extrapolate backgrounds from control regions in the analysis of the other channels. In other cases, the data are used to extract the normalization and/or shape of the background distributions. Although the production of background MC samples differed somewhat depending on the specific analysis, most MC samples were produced as follows. Diboson ($WW$, $WZ$, $ZZ$) events were generated with Sherpa [37] or Powheg-Box; $W +$ jets and $Z +$ jets events were generated with Sherpa for up to two partons at NLO and up to four partons at LO using the OpenLoops [38] and Comix [39] programs, respectively. The production of top-quark pairs and single top quarks was performed at NLO with Powheg-Box. For the $\ell\nu$ and $\ell\ell$ channels, the dominant DY background was modeled using Powheg-Box with next-to-next-to-leading-order QCD and NLO electroweak corrections. More specific details can be found in the papers for each analysis.

For all MC samples, except those produced with Sherpa, $b$-hadron and $c$-hadron decays were performed withEvtGen1.2.0 [40]. The production of the simulated
event samples included the effect of multiple \( pp \) interactions per bunch crossing, as well as the effect on the detector response due to interactions from bunch crossings before or after the one containing the hard interaction. These effects are collectively referred to as "pileup." The simulation of pileup collisions was performed with PYTHIA8 [47] implemented in FASTJET [48]. To remove jets reconstructed with the vertex, tracks associated with the primary vertex but not associated with electrons, muons, taus leptons (not involving intermediate bosons). Care was taken in defining the event selection to achieve orthogonality between the different channels, as described later in this section. The channels are broadly separated into three categories, depending on the targeted decay state of the intermediate resonance: a vector-boson pair (VV), a W or Z boson with an associated Higgs boson (VH), and a pair of leptons (not involving intermediate bosons). Within the VV category, there are three subcategories: fully hadronic, leptonic, or small-\( R \) jets. A pair of small-\( R \) jets may be used to reconstruct \( V \rightarrow q\bar{q} \) decays at sufficiently small \( V \) momentum where they can be resolved, but a single large-\( R \) jet is used at higher momentum when the two small-\( R \) jets merge due to the high Lorentz boost. Small-\( R \) jets are built from clusters calibrated at the EM scale [50], while large-\( R \) jets are built from clusters calibrated at the local hadronic scale [51]. The latter jets are trimmed to minimize the impact of pileup and to improve their energy and mass resolution by reclustering the constituents of each jet with the \( k_t \) algorithm [52] into smaller \( R = 0.2 \) subjets and removing those subjets with \( p_{T\text{subjet}}/p_{T\text{jet}} < 0.05 \), where \( p_{T\text{subjet}} \) and \( p_{T\text{jet}} \) are the transverse momenta of the subjet and original jet, respectively. Calibration of the trimmed jet \( p_T \) and mass is described in Ref. [53].

Jets containing \( b \)-hadron decay products are tagged with a multivariate algorithm that exploits the presence of large-impact-parameter tracks and displaced vertices from \( b \)-hadron decays [54,55]. Large-\( R \) jets are tagged as consistent with hadronic decays of \( W \) or \( Z \) bosons based on the mass (the mass window varies with jet \( p_T \) and substructure of the jet [53,56]). The latter exploits the two-body kinematics of high-\( p_T \) \( V \rightarrow q\bar{q} \) decays as measured by the variable \( D_2 \), which is defined as a ratio of two-point to three-point energy correlation functions that are based on the energies of, and pairwise angular distances between, the jet’s constituents [56,57]. Likewise, large-\( R \) jets may also be tagged as originating from \( H \rightarrow bb \) decays by requiring the jet mass to be consistent with that of the Higgs boson (75–145 GeV) and the presence of two or more \( R = 0.2 \) jets built from tracks associated with the large-\( R \) jet, at least one of which must satisfy \( b \)-tagging requirements.

The magnitude of the event’s missing transverse momentum is computed from the vectorial sum of the transverse momenta of calibrated electrons, muons, and small-\( R \) jets in the event [58]. The \( E_T^{\text{miss}} \) value is corrected for the soft term, which consists of tracks associated with the primary vertex but not associated with electrons, muons, taus leptons, or small-\( R \) jets.

VI. EVENT SELECTION

The event selection and background estimation for the different analyses are briefly presented here. A full description is available in Refs. [9–18]. A list of the channels that are input to the combination is provided in Table III along with their experimental signatures. Care was taken in defining the event selection to achieve orthogonality between the different channels, as described later in this section. The channels are broadly separated into three categories, depending on the targeted decay state of the intermediate resonance: a vector-boson pair (VV), a W or Z boson with an associated Higgs boson (VH), and a pair of leptons (not involving intermediate bosons). Within the VV category, there are three subcategories: fully hadronic,
semitransverse, and fully leptonic. In the semileptonic and fully leptonic subcategories, the searches are further split into optimized selections for ggF/DY and VBF production (only the ggF/DY signature is indicated in Table III). The VBF-enriched selections are made orthogonal to the ggF/DY selections by requiring the presence of additional small-$R$ jets, of which the two with the highest $p_T$ must have large $\eta$ separation and high invariant mass. For the majority of the searches, the discriminating variable is the invariant mass of the $VV/VH/\ell\ell$ candidates, except those which involve two neutrinos (or the $W \rightarrow \ell\nu$ final state) where the transverse mass of the final-state particles is used.

Many of the searches involving charged leptons are affected by events with lepton candidates that originate from jets misidentified as leptons or with nonprompt leptons that originate from hadron decays. This background source is referred to as the “fake-lepton” background and is estimated using data-driven techniques. Events with fake leptons may arise from a variety of different processes including multijet, $W/Z +$ jets, and $t\bar{t}$ production. Other background sources are estimated using MC simulation, with constraints sometimes extracted from control regions in the data.

The fully hadronic $VV$ final state benefits from the largest branching fraction among the possible final states but suffers from a large background contamination from the production of multijet events. However, this contamination can be mitigated in the regime of TeV-scale resonances with jet substructure techniques as described in Sec. V. The background prediction is obtained with a fit to the invariant mass distribution of the two highest-$p_T$ large-$R$ jets in the event. This channel explores the mass range between 1.1 and 5.0 TeV and is particularly sensitive at high resonant mass.

The semileptonic $VV$ analyses require either two small-$R$ jets or one large-$R$ jet, for the resolved and merged regimes, respectively, in addition to zero, one, or two leptons, with significant $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ required in all channels except $\ell\ell qq$. Control regions are used to derive the background estimate, and separate signal regions are defined so as to be sensitive to the different production mechanisms, i.e. ggF/DY or VBF production. The background in the $\nu\nu qq$ channel has large contributions from $W/Z +$ jets and $t\bar{t}$ events. The background in the $\nu\nu qq$ channel is dominated by $W +$ jets and $t\bar{t}$ events, while the background in the $\ell\ellqq$ channel is dominated by $Z +$ jets events. These channels are used in the mass range from 0.3 to 5.0 TeV and are particularly sensitive in the mid- to high-mass range.

For the fully leptonic $VV$ final states, different selection categories are defined for each channel to optimize the sensitivity to DY, ggF, and VBF production. In the $\ell\ell qq$ channel, two VBF categories are defined with $N_{\text{jet}} = 1$ and $N_{\text{jet}} \geq 2$, with additional criteria on the jet $\eta$ and separation between the leptons and jets to minimize contamination from the ggF signal. A third category for ggF production is further defined as those events that fail to enter the two VBF categories, while satisfying the other base criteria, ensuring orthogonality. The major backgrounds in the $\ell\ell qq$ channel come from $WW$ and $t\bar{t}$ production. This channel is used in the mass range 0.5–5.0 TeV (0.5–1.0 TeV) for ggF

### Table III: Summary of analysis channels, diboson states they are sensitive to, and their experimental signatures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
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<th>Leptons</th>
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<th>Jets</th>
<th>$b$-tags</th>
<th>VBF categories</th>
<th>Ref.</th>
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</table>

[PHYS. REV. D 98, 052008 (2018)]
(VBF) production with particular sensitivity at lower mass. For the \( e\ell\nu\ell \) channel, two categories are defined to discriminate between DY and VBF production mechanisms. The dominant background in the \( e\ell\nu\ell \) channel is the contribution from WZ production, and this channel has particular sensitivity in the mass range 0.3–3.0 TeV (0.3–2.0 TeV) for DY (VBF) production. The \( \ell\ell\nu\ell \) channel considers all combinations of electron and muon pairs, with ZZ production as the main background contribution. This channel provides good sensitivity for resonance masses below 1 TeV and covers the range of 0.2–2.0 TeV. Finally, the \( \ell\ell\nu\nu \) channel requires exactly two same-flavor and oppositely charged electrons or muons, with the dilepton invariant mass required to be within the Z-mass region. This channel has four signal categories: two for ggF and two for VBF production, divided according to the flavor of the leptons they contain. This channel covers the resonance mass range of 0.3–2.0 TeV, with a particular sensitivity at low mass, between 0.5 and 1.0 TeV.

The fully hadronic \( VH \) analysis focuses on resonance masses above 1 TeV, with highly boosted \( V \) bosons and Higgs bosons that are likely to be highly collimated and merged into a single large-\( R \) jet. The analysis uses dedicated boosted-boson tagging and only considers the merged regime, requiring at least two large-\( R \) jets with high \( p_T \), with a veto on any event that contains a lepton candidate. The main background in this search comes from multijet processes.

The semileptonic \( VH \) analyses focus on the resonance mass region above 0.5 TeV. Regimes in which the \( V \) or \( H \) boson decay constituents are separated enough to be considered resolved and those in which they are merged are both considered in separate categories, with priority given to the resolved analysis and the remaining events recycled into the merged analysis. The semileptonic searches are split into three channels depending on the number of charged leptons: \( \nu\nu bb \), \( \ell\nu bb \), and \( \ell\ell bb \).

The \( e\nu \) and \( \ell\ell \) final states have a high sensitivity due to their very clean signature, with good lepton energy resolution and relatively low background. The dominant background in these channels comes from the irreducible charged-current (CC) and neutral-current (NC) DY processes for the \( e\nu \) and \( \ell\ell \) channels, respectively. These searches are sensitive across a wide range of resonance masses from 0.2 to 5.5 TeV.

For a number of the signatures, there is interference between the signal and the SM background. For some channels such as the hadronic and semileptonic diboson decay channels, the impact of interference is expected to be negligible because the SM diboson background is small. Moreover, multijet event production is depleted in \( qqqq \) states, and thus the interference with the fully hadronic decay channel is reduced. For the fully leptonic diboson decay channels, this background is not negligible, but the role of interference, which increases with the heavy resonance width, is small for widths less than 15% of the resonance pole mass. Since only narrow resonances are considered, the impact of interference is neglected. Finally, for the leptonic channels (\( e\nu, \ell\ell \)), the interference can play an important role as the dominant background is the irreducible DY process which interferes with the HVT signal, and thus to minimize the effects of interference, the \( e\nu \) transverse mass is required to satisfy \( |m_T - m_{\text{pole}}| < \sqrt{64 \text{ GeV} \times m_{\text{pole}}} \) in the \( e\nu \) channel, where \( m_{\text{pole}} \) corresponds to the \( W \) pole mass. Likewise, the \( \ell\ell \) mass is required to satisfy \( |m_{\ell\ell} - m_{\text{pole}}| < \sqrt{25 \text{ GeV} \times m_{\text{pole}}} \) in the \( \ell\ell \) channel with \( m_{\text{pole}} \) the \( Z' \) pole mass. The mass window requirement results in the difference between the theoretical cross section with and without interference being less than 15% throughout the coupling plane.

Possible overlaps among the different searches in the combination are considered to ensure orthogonality. The first step is to determine the orthogonality of the selection criteria used in the various analyses, which is summarized in Table III. One of the criteria that cleanly provides orthogonality is the requirement on the lepton multiplicity in the selected events, ranging from zero to four leptons. Further orthogonality is achieved with additional selection criteria for the jets and \( E_T^{\text{miss}} \) in the events. In particular, a veto is applied to events with a large \( E_T^{\text{miss}} \) value in the \( qqqq, qqbb, \) and \( \ell\ell bb \) channels. For the combination of \( VV \) and \( VH \) channels (and also with the leptonic channels), events are further removed from the \( VH \) analysis if they are in overlapping parts of the signal region and have a Higgs boson candidate mass close to the \( W/Z \) mass. This has the effect of improving the \( VH \) sensitivity in the combination above 1 TeV by 10%–15% because the original \( VH \) semileptonic analyses were optimized for resonances with a mass below 1 TeV. Only a negligible number of events that overlap between channels remains.

**VII. SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES**

The various sources of experimental and theoretical systematic uncertainty are assessed as a function of the discriminating variable in each of the search channels in the combination. These uncertainties are derived for both the signal and background estimates where relevant and are treated as correlated or uncorrelated between the signal and background in the various channels, as appropriate. The systematic uncertainties estimated to have a non-negligible impact on the expected cross section limit are used as nuisance parameters in the statistical interpretation, as described in Sec. VIII. This section describes the systematic uncertainties for all channels in the combination and applies to the various signal scenarios in Table II. A full description of the evaluation of systematic uncertainties is provided in the original publications for each of the analyses. What follows is a qualitative discussion.
The experimental systematic uncertainties related to charged leptons, such as the efficiencies due to triggering, reconstruction, identification, and isolation, as well as the lepton energy scale and resolution, are evaluated using $Z \rightarrow \ell \ell$ decays and then extrapolated to higher energies. These uncertainties are correlated between leptons of the same flavor across all channels in the combination and between the signal and the background estimates. The systematic uncertainties for each of the channels featuring charged leptons are summarized in Table IV including the assumed correlation between channels.

The experimental systematic uncertainties due to the missing transverse momentum are summarized in Table V. These relate to the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ trigger as well as the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ scale and resolution, which are estimated in control regions using the data.

The small-$R$ jet uncertainties are relevant for most of the channels in the combination, including those with leptonic final states that contain at least one neutrino, due to the impact of those uncertainties on the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ measurement. The uncertainties in the jet energy scale and resolution are derived by comparing the response between the data and the simulation in various kinematic regions and event topologies. Additional contributions to this uncertainty come from the dependence on the pileup activity and on the flavor composition of the jets as well as the punch-through of the energy from the calorimeter into the muon spectrometer. An uncertainty in the efficiency for jets to satisfy the JVT requirements is assessed. The small-$R$ jet uncertainties are summarized in Table VI. For large-$R$ jets, the uncertainties in the energy, mass, and $D_2$ scales are estimated by comparing the ratio of calorimeter-based to

### Table IV. Lepton systematic uncertainties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>$\ell\nu qq$</th>
<th>$\ell\ell qq$</th>
<th>$\ell\ell vv$</th>
<th>$\ell\nu vv$</th>
<th>$\ell\ell ll$</th>
<th>$\ell\ell ll$</th>
<th>$\ell bbb$</th>
<th>$\ell bbb$</th>
<th>$\ell ll$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Table V. $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ systematic uncertainties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>$\nu qq$</th>
<th>$\ell\nu qq$</th>
<th>$\ell\ell qq$</th>
<th>$\ell\ell vv$</th>
<th>$\ell\nu vv$</th>
<th>$\ell\ell ll$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>S + B</td>
<td>S + B</td>
<td>S + B</td>
<td>$\cdots$</td>
<td>$\cdots$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$E_T^{\text{miss}}$ soft-term scale</td>
<td>S + B</td>
<td>S + B</td>
<td>S + B</td>
<td>S + B</td>
<td>S + B</td>
<td>S + B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$E_T^{\text{miss}}$ soft-term resolution</td>
<td>S + B</td>
<td>S + B</td>
<td>S + B</td>
<td>S + B</td>
<td>S + B</td>
<td>S + B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table VI. Small-$R$ jet systematic uncertainties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>$\nu qq$</th>
<th>$\ell\nu qq$</th>
<th>$\ell\ell qq$</th>
<th>$\ell\ell vv$</th>
<th>$\ell\nu vv$</th>
<th>$\ell\ell ll$</th>
<th>$\ell bbb$</th>
<th>$\ell bbb$</th>
<th>$\ell ll$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
track-based jet $p_T$ measurements in dijet events between the data and the simulation. The uncertainties in the jet mass resolution and jet energy resolution as well as $D_2$ are assessed by applying additional smearing of the jet observables according to the uncertainty in their resolution measurements. A summary of the large-$R$ jet systematic uncertainties is provided in Table VII.

The flavor-tagging uncertainty is evaluated by varying the data-to-MC corrections in various kinematic regions, based on the measured tagging efficiency and mistag rates. These variations are applied separately to $b$-hadron jets, $c$-hadron jets, and light (quark or gluon) jets, leading to three uncorrelated systematic uncertainties. An additional uncertainty is included due to the extrapolation for the jets with $p_T$ beyond the kinematic reach of the data calibration. The flavor-tagging uncertainties are summarized in Table VIII.

The theoretical uncertainties are split among the various backgrounds, which play greater or lesser roles in each of the search channels, depending on the composition of backgrounds in a given channel. The dominant background in the $\ell\nu$ and $\ell\ell$ channels is from the CC and NC DY processes, respectively. In these channels theoretical uncertainties arise from PDFs and electroweak corrections. The PDF uncertainties are divided into PDF eigenvector variations, the choice of the nominal PDF set (CT14NNLO [59]) from a number of different PDF sets, as well as the choice of PDF renormalization and factorization scales, and $\alpha_S$. In the case of the $\ell\ell$ channel, an additional uncertainty due to photon-induced corrections to the NC DY process is also assessed. Similar sources of theoretical uncertainty are assessed and included where relevant for other backgrounds such as top-quark, diboson, $V +$ jets, as well as for the multijet background, when an MC-based estimation is used. Specifically, when “cross section” uncertainties are mentioned for these backgrounds, they refer to cross section calculations, while “modeling” refers to event generator and parton shower comparisons, and “extrapolation” refers to the background being extrapolated from a control region to a higher-mass region. One exception is the multijet-modeling systematic uncertainty for channels that include leptons, such as $\ell\nu$ and $\ell\ell$. In these cases, the systematic uncertainty includes variations of the data-driven methodology used to derive the fake-lepton background estimate and its subsequent extrapolation to higher masses. All uncertainties are summarized in Table IX. Theoretical uncertainties that affect the acceptance of the signal are also assessed, such as initial- and final-state radiation, PDF variation, and PDF choice. These generally have a negligible impact on the result but are included where relevant in the statistical interpretation.

All channels include an uncertainty in the integrated luminosity of 3.2\% derived following a methodology similar to that detailed in Ref. [60]. This uncertainty is taken to be correlated across the channels and between the signal and background. The uncertainty due to pileup is also considered when it does not have a negligible impact on the analysis, to cover the difference between the ratios of predicted and measured inelastic cross section values.

For most of the $VV$ and $VH$ analyses, MC-modeling systematic uncertainties play the dominant role in the theoretical uncertainty, while for the leptonic channels, the PDF variation and PDF choice are by far the most dominant. For the experimental systematic uncertainties, analyses selecting jets are most sensitive to systematic uncertainties in the modeling of large-$R$ jets, while the leptonic channels are affected mostly by the uncertainty in the muon reconstruction efficiency and electron isolation efficiency.

TABLE VII. Large-$R$ jet systematic uncertainties. The abbreviations S and B stand for signal and background, respectively. Each uncertainty is considered as correlated between the channels listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>$qqqq$</th>
<th>$\nu\nuqq$</th>
<th>$\ell\nuqq$</th>
<th>$\ell\ellqq$</th>
<th>$\nu\nu\ell\nu$</th>
<th>$\ell\ell\ell$</th>
<th>$qqbb$</th>
<th>$\nu\nu\nu\nu$</th>
<th>$\ell\nu\nu\nu$</th>
<th>$\ell\ell\ell\ell$</th>
<th>$\ell\ell\ell\ell$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

TABLE VIII. Flavor-tagging systematic uncertainties. The abbreviations S and B stand for signal and background, respectively. Each uncertainty is considered as correlated between the channels listed.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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<th>$\ell\nuqq$</th>
<th>$\ell\ellqq$</th>
<th>$\nu\nu\ell\nu$</th>
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<th>$qqbb$</th>
<th>$\nu\nu\nu\nu$</th>
<th>$\ell\nu\nu\nu$</th>
<th>$\ell\ell\ell\ell$</th>
<th>$\ell\ell\ell\ell$</th>
<th>$\ell\ell\ell\ell$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
TABLE IX. Theoretical systematic uncertainties. The abbreviation B stands for background, while the symbol \( \cdots \) denotes uncertainties that are not applicable, “Negl.” denotes uncertainties that are negligible, and “Corr” marks whether the uncertainty is correlated between the channels listed. The abbreviation F means that this parameter was left to float in the background control region for that channel. The systematic uncertainties in the background modeling for the fully hadronic analysis \( qqqq \) are embedded in the fit function used to model the background.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Corr</th>
<th>( vq qq )</th>
<th>( \ell q qq )</th>
<th>( \ell \ell v )</th>
<th>( \ell \ell \ell )</th>
<th>( \ell q bb )</th>
<th>( \ell b b )</th>
<th>( \ell b b )</th>
<th>( \ell v )</th>
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<td>( \cdots )</td>
<td>( \cdots )</td>
<td>( \cdots )</td>
<td>( \cdots )</td>
<td>( \cdots )</td>
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<td>( \cdots )</td>
<td>( \cdots )</td>
<td>( \cdots )</td>
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<td>( \cdots )</td>
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<td>B</td>
</tr>
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<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>Negl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>( \cdots )</td>
<td>( \cdots )</td>
<td>( \cdots )</td>
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<tr>
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<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
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</table>

VIII. STATISTICAL TREATMENT

The combination of the individual channels proceeds with a simultaneous analysis of the signal discriminants for each signal model being tested, only the channels sensitive to that hypothesis are included in the combination. The statistical treatment of the data is based on the RooFit [61], RooStats [62], and HistFactory [63] data modeling and handling toolkits. Results are calculated in two different signal parametrization paradigms, corresponding to one-dimensional upper limits on the cross section times branching fraction (\( \sigma \times \mathcal{B} \)) and two-dimensional limits on coupling strengths. The statistical treatment of each case is described here.

A. One-dimensional upper limits

In the case of one-dimensional upper limits on \( \sigma \times \mathcal{B} \), the overall signal strength, \( \mu \), defined as a scale factor multiplying the cross section times branching fraction predicted by the signal hypothesis, is the parameter of interest. The analysis follows the frequentist approach with a test statistic based on the profile-likelihood ratio [64]. This test statistic (\( T \)) is defined as twice the negative logarithm of the ratio of the conditional (fixed-\( \mu \)) maximum likelihood to the unconditional maximum likelihood, each obtained from a fit to the data

\[
T = -2 \ln \frac{L(\mu, \hat{\theta}(\mu))}{L(\hat{\mu}, \hat{\theta}(\hat{\mu}))},
\]

where \( \theta(\mu) \) represent the nuisance parameters. The latter are represented in the equation as their unconditional and conditional maximum-likelihood values, \( \hat{\theta}(\hat{\mu}) \) and \( \hat{\theta}(\mu) \). The fitted signal strength, \( \hat{\mu} \), is bounded from below at zero.

The likelihood, \( L \), is given by

\[
L = \prod_c \prod_i \text{Pois}(n_{ci}^{\text{obs}} | n_{ci}^{\text{sig}} (\mu, \bar{\theta}) + n_{ci}^{\text{bkg}} (\bar{\theta})) \prod_k f_k (\theta_k),
\]

where the index \( c \) represents the analysis channel, \( i \) represents the bin in the signal discriminant distribution, \( n_{ci}^{\text{obs}} \) is the observed number of events, \( n_{ci}^{\text{sig}} \) is the number of expected signal events, \( n_{ci}^{\text{bkg}} \) is the expected number of background events, \( \bar{\theta} \) is the vector of nuisance parameters, and Pois(\( x | y \)) is the Poisson probability to observe \( x \) events when \( y \) are predicted.

The effect of a systematic uncertainty \( k \) on the binned likelihood is modeled with an associated nuisance parameter, \( \theta_k \), constrained with a corresponding probability density function \( f_k (\theta_k) \). In this manner, correlated effects across the different channels are modeled by the use of a common nuisance parameter and its corresponding probability density function. The \( f_k (\theta_k) \) terms are Poisson distributed for bin-by-bin MC statistical uncertainties and Gaussian distributed for all other terms.

Given the large number of search channels included in the likelihood, the sampling distribution of the profile-likelihood test statistic is assumed to follow the chi-squared (\( \chi^2 \)) distribution, and thus asymptotic formulas for the evolution of the likelihood as a function of signal strength (\( \mu \)) are used [64]. In certain instances, such as high-mass tails of resonant mass distributions, the asymptotic approximation is expected to be less reliable. In these cases,
MC trials are used to assess its accuracy. This approximation is found to lead to $\sigma \times B$ limits that are stronger than those obtained with MC trials. The effect is largest in the case of the lepton-antilepton combination for which it increases linearly with resonance mass from approximately 20% at 2 TeV to 55% at 5 TeV. In the context of HVT model A, the impact of using the asymptotic approximation in the limit setting is at most 250 GeV on the mass limits, as obtained for the lepton-antilepton combination.

When evaluating limits in the HVT model with degenerate-mass $W'$ and $Z'$ production, each of the contributing signal processes is normalized to the $\sigma \times B$ value predicted by HVT model A, thereby defining the relative ratios of $\sigma(pp \rightarrow W')/\sigma(pp \rightarrow Z')$, $B(W' \rightarrow \ell\ell)/B(W \rightarrow ZZ/WZ/WH)$, and $B(Z' \rightarrow \ell\ell)/B(Z' \rightarrow WW/ZH)$. The HVT model A benchmark makes a model-dependent assumption about these relative ratios, so the resulting upper limits cannot be directly interpreted as general limits on $\sigma \times B$. Thus, the upper limits are presented as the ratio to the HVT model A prediction for $\sigma \times B$, as each of the previously defined ratios is fixed to this benchmark prediction.

Upper limits on $\mu$ for the signal models being tested at the simulated resonance masses are evaluated at the 95% C.L. following the CLs prescription [65]. Lower limits on the mass of new resonances in these models are obtained by finding the maximum resonance mass where the 95% C.L. upper limit on $\mu$ is less than or equal to unity. This mass is found by interpolating between the limits on $\mu$ at the simulated signal masses. The interpolation assumes monotonic and smooth behavior of the efficiencies for the signal and background processes and that the impact of the variation of signal mass distributions between adjacent test masses is negligible.

B. Two-dimensional limits

When calculating one-dimensional upper limits on $\sigma \times B$, each of the signal rate predictions from $W'$ and $Z'$ production is fixed to the ratio predicted by the benchmark models. To evaluate two-dimensional constraints on coupling strengths, the signal yields are parametrized with a set of coupling parameters $(\vec{g})$ which allow the relative proportions of each signal to vary independently. Thus, in the two-dimensional limit calculation, Eq. (2) is modified to allow the set of coupling parameters to be considered independently:

$$T' = -2 \ln \frac{L(\vec{g}, \hat{\theta}(\vec{g}))}{L(\vec{g}', \hat{\theta}(\vec{g}))}.$$  

The coupling parametrization assumes that all signal production proceeds via quark-antiquark annihilation (proportional to $g_0^2$) and the signal decays are proportional to the square of the bosonic coupling ($g_H$) and leptonic coupling ($g_\ell$) in the $V' \rightarrow VV/VH$ and $V' \rightarrow \ell\ell\ell\ell$ final states, respectively.

Two coupling spaces are considered. The first coupling scenario makes the assumption of common fermionic couplings ($g_f = g_\ell = g_\mu$) and probes the $\{g_H, g_f\}$ plane. The second coupling scenario allows independent fermionic couplings and probes the $\{g_q, g_\ell\}$ plane with either $g_H = 0$ or $g_H = -0.56$, where the latter takes the value predicted in the HVT model A benchmark. The 95% C.L. limit contours in each coupling space are determined using $T'$ by normalizing signal rates to the $\sigma \times B$ predictions of the HVT model for the specified values of $\vec{g}$ at a given point in the space and calculating the value of CL$_s$ for that point. Upper limits on coupling parameters are thus defined by contours of constant CL$_s$ in each coupling space considered.

IX. RESULTS

The methodology described in the previous section is used to statistically combine various channels for the different signal models listed in Table II. The largest local
excess is observed in the VBF scalar (WW + ZZ) search for a mass of 1.6 TeV, with a significance of 2.9σ. Limits are set on the signal parameters of interest.

For the VV combination, the HVT, bulk RS, and scalar models are all considered. Figure 3 shows the σ × B limit relative to the predicted σ × B for the combination of W' → WZ and Z' → WW decays in the context of the HVT model for either DY or VBF production mechanisms. Cross section limits obtained exclusively for the VBF production mechanism are useful for constraining models with small coupling between fermions and V' resonances. Figures 4 and 5 show the σ × B limits for the combination of GKK → WW or ZZ and scalar → WW or ZZ, respectively.

For the combination of VH search channels, only the HVT benchmark models are considered. Figure 6 shows the σ × B limits relative to the HVT model A cross section, for decays into WH and ZH combined.

The VV and VH channels are then combined, setting limits on σ × B relative to the HVT model A prediction, as shown in Fig. 7(a). For the leptonic channels (W' → ℓν and Z' → ℓℓ), only HVT model A is considered as shown in Fig. 7(b).

The channels are then further combined to set limits on HVT model A using not only VV and VH decay modes but also ℓν/ℓℓ decay modes. Figure 8 presents the resulting limits on σ × B relative to the HVT model A prediction for W', Z', and V' production. Separate VV/VH and ℓν/ℓℓ expected limits are shown in Fig. 8(d). As the VV and VH analyses only usually consider V' masses up to 5 TeV, the acceptance is extrapolated to 5.5 TeV for the full combination.

Each of the channels presented here contributes uniquely to the search for heavy resonances, and the results obtained by their combination extend the reach beyond that of the individual searches. By using the HVT, bulk RS, and scalar benchmark models for comparison, the relative exclusion power of each search and their combinations can be compared. The intersection of the benchmark model

FIG. 4. Observed and expected 95% C.L. upper limits on the GKK cross section times branching fraction to WW or ZZ for the bulk RS model with k/\kappa_{Pl} = 1. The model prediction is also shown.

FIG. 5. Observed and expected 95% C.L. upper limits on the cross section times branching fraction to WW or ZZ for a scalar particle. Results are shown for (a) DY and (b) VBF production mechanisms.

FIG. 6. Observed and expected 95% C.L. upper limits on the V' cross section times branching fraction to WH or ZH for the HVT benchmark model, relative to the cross section times branching fraction for HVT model A. The model predictions are also shown.
predictions and the $\sigma \times B$ upper limits yields lower limits on the resonance mass in each case. The observed and expected lower limits on the resonance mass are summarized in Table X.

The search channels included here provide access to several coupling strengths of heavy resonances to SM particles as described by Eq. (1) in the context of the HVT model. Specifically, the data constrain the coupling strength

FIG. 7. Observed and expected 95% C.L. upper limits on the $V'$ cross section times branching fraction to (a) $VV/VH$ and (b) $\ell \bar{\ell} / \ell \bar{\ell}$ for the HVT benchmark model, relative to the cross section for HVT model A. The model predictions are also shown.

FIG. 8. Observed and expected 95% C.L. upper limits on the $V'$ cross section times branching fraction to $VV$, $VH$, and the lepton-antilepton, relative to the prediction for HVT model A. Results are shown for (a) $W'$, (b) $Z'$, and (c) $V'$ production; (d) shows expected limits for bosonic and leptonic decay modes. The model predictions are also shown.
to both the quarks and bosons in the $VV$ and $VH$ channels, whereas constraints are placed on both the quark and lepton couplings in the leptonic channels. These constraints are shown in Figs. 9–11, where the first and second include a shaded area denoting a region where the limits are not valid because resonances would have a width greater than 5% of their mass. This is a region where the resonance width would exceed the discriminating variable’s resolution in the search, and the assumed narrow-width approximation breaks down. Figures 10 and 11 include constraints on heavy resonances with masses of 3, 4, and 5 TeV from precision electroweak (EW) measurements [66], which already exclude this aforementioned region for the relevant contours shown. The EW constraints are only overlaid on the final plots for each part of the combination.

The constraints from the $VV$, $VH$, and combined $VV$ and $VH$ channels are presented in Fig. 9, showing the $\{g_H, g_f\}$ plane for each as well as the $\{g_V, g_\ell\}$ plane for $VV/VH$. These constraints are strongest at large couplings for both $g_f$ and $g_H$ but become weak as these couplings approach

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<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>HVT model A Obs</th>
<th>Exp</th>
<th>HVT model B Obs</th>
<th>Exp</th>
<th>Bulk RS Obs</th>
<th>Exp</th>
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<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.9</td>
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<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3.7</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<td>2.3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2.8</td>
<td>3.1</td>
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<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ZH$</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</table>

**FIG. 9.** Observed 95% C.L. exclusion contours in the $\{g_H, g_f\}$ HVT parameter space for resonances of mass 2, 3, 4, or 5 TeV for (a) the $VV$ channels, (b) the $VH$ channels, and (c) the combined $VV$ and $VH$ channels; (d) shows the combined $VV$ and $VH$ channels in the $\{g_V, g_\ell\}$ plane with $g_V$ set to the value from HVT model A. For (d), the 5 TeV limit contour is outside of the plane. The areas outside the curves are excluded. The gray area indicates parameter regions for which $\Gamma/m > 5\%$. Also shown are the parameters for models A and B, where applicable.

**TABLE X.** Observed and expected 95% C.L. lower limits on resonance mass for benchmark models in each of the combined searches, “Obs” and “Exp” stand for observed and expected, respectively.
This is because the resonance couplings to $VV$ and $VH$ tend to zero as the $g_H$ coupling approaches zero, and production of the resonance also tends to zero as the $g_f$ coupling approaches zero. The constraints in the $g_f, g_l$ plane shown in Fig. 9(d) weaken at larger $|g_f|$ values due to an increase in the leptonic branching fraction and a corresponding decrease in the bosonic branching fraction.

![Graph 1](image1)

**FIG. 10.** Observed 95% C.L. exclusion contours in the HVT parameter space (a) $\{g_H, g_f\}$, (b) $\{g_q, g_l\}$ with $g_H$ set to the value from HVT model A, and (c) $\{g_q, g_l\}$ with $g_H$ set to 0, for resonances of mass 3, 4, and 5 TeV for the $\ell\nu/\ell\ell$ channels. The areas outside the curves are excluded, as are the filled regions which show the constraints from precision EW measurements. The gray area indicates parameter regions for which $\Gamma/m > 5\%$. Also shown are the parameters for models A and B, where applicable.

![Graph 2](image2)

**FIG. 11.** Observed 95% C.L. exclusion contours in the HVT parameter space (a) $\{g_H, g_f\}$ and (b) $\{g_q, g_l\}$ for resonances of mass 3, 4, and 5 TeV for the combination of the $VV$, $VH$, and $\ell\nu/\ell\ell$ channels. The areas outside the curves are excluded, as are the filled regions which show the constraints from precision EW measurements. Also shown are the parameters for models A and B, where applicable.
Figure 10 presents the constraints from the $\ell\nu/\ell\ell$ channels in the $\{g_H,g_f\}$ plane, $\{g_q,g_\ell\}$ plane for $g_H$ set to the value from HVT model A, and $\{g_q,g_\ell\}$ plane for $g_H$ set to 0. In this last case, the bosonic channels do not contribute because $g_H = 0$, meaning only the leptonic channels contribute. As the leptonic channels involve direct production of a $V'$ resonance and subsequent decay, without intermediate bosons, the constraints remain strong even as $g_H$ tends to zero, and in fact are strongest there due to the restriction of alternative decay modes. The constraints from these channels still weaken as the $g_f$ coupling tends to zero though, as it does when $g_\ell$ and/or $g_q$ tends to zero. These features demonstrate the complementarity between the $VV/VH$ and $\ell\nu/\ell\ell$ decay modes.

The complementarity is further evidenced by the full $VV/VH/\ell\nu/\ell\ell$ combination in both the $\{g_H,g_f\}$ plane, as shown in Fig. 11(a), and the $\{g_q,g_\ell\}$ plane, as shown in Fig. 11(b). The resulting constraints are very stringent, improving on the limits from current precision EW measurements in almost all areas of the respective planes, except at low $|g_q|$ values when considering nonuniversal quark and lepton couplings in the $\{g_q,g_\ell\}$ plane. This is due to the asymmetry of the precision EW measurement limits, which is related to interference effects. The constraints for HVT model A are generally stronger than for model B, due to the small fermion couplings in the latter scenario.

X. CONCLUSIONS

A combination of results from searches for heavy resonance production in various bosonic and leptonic final states is presented. The data were collected with the ATLAS detector at the LHC in $pp$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV and correspond to an integrated luminosity of 36.1 fb$^{-1}$. While previous combination efforts included only the decays of heavy resonances into $VV$ and $VH$, the combination presented here also includes decays into lepton-anti-lepton final states. Compared to the individual analyses, the combined results strengthen the constraints on physics beyond the Standard Model and allow the constraints to be expressed in terms of the couplings to quarks, leptons, or bosons. The relative sensitivities of the different approaches are compared, including bosonic and leptonic final states or different production mechanisms such as quark-antiquark annihilation/gluon-gluon fusion vs vector-boson fusion.

The combined results are interpreted in the context of models with a heavy vector-boson triplet, a Kaluza-Klein excitation of the graviton, or a heavy scalar singlet. The 95% C.L. lower limit on the mass of $V'$ resonances in the weakly coupled HVT model A is 5.5 TeV, and the corresponding limit in the strongly coupled HVT model B is 4.5 TeV. Similarly, the lower limit on the $G_{KK}$ mass in the bulk RS model with $k/M_{Pl} = 1$ is 2.3 TeV. Limits on the cross section times branching fraction for an empirical heavy scalar model range between 380 and 1.3 fb for scalar mass values between 0.3 and 3.0 TeV in the case of production via gluon-gluon fusion. The corresponding values for scalar production via vector-boson fusion range between 140 and 3.2 fb for scalar masses between 0.5 and 3.0 TeV. Finally, the combined results are used to place stringent constraints on couplings of heavy vector bosons to quarks, leptons, and bosons. Except at low values of quark couplings where resonance production via quark-antiquark annihilation is suppressed at the LHC, these constraints are found to be more stringent than those extracted from precision electroweak measurements.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank CERN for the very successful operation of the LHC 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; BMWFW and FWF, Austria; ANAS, Azerbaijan; SSTC, Belarus; CNPq and FAPESP, Brazil; NSERC, NRC, and CFI, Canada; CERN; CONICyT, Chile; CAS, MOST, and NSFC, China; COLCIENCIAS, Colombia; MSMT CR, MPO CR, and VSC CR, Czech Republic; DNRF and DNSRC, Denmark; IN2P3-CNRS, CEA-DRF/IRFU, France; SRNSFG, Georgia; BMBF, HGF, and MPG, Germany; GSRT, Greece; RGC, Hong Kong, China; ISF, I-CORE and Benoziyo Center, Israel; INFN, Italy; MEXT and JSPS, Japan; CNRST, Morocco; NWO, Netherlands; RCN, Norway; MNiSW and NCN, Poland; FCT, Portugal; MNE/IFA, Romania; MES of Russia and NRC KI, Russian Federation; JINR; MESTD, Serbia; MSSR, Slovakia; ARRS and MIZŠ, Slovenia; DST/NRF, South Africa; MINECO, Spain; SRC and Wallenberg Foundation, Sweden; SERI, SNSF, and Cantons of Bern and Geneva, Switzerland; MOST, Taiwan; TAEK, Turkey; STFC, United Kingdom; and DOE and NSF, U.S. In addition, individual groups and members have received support from BCKDF, the Canada Council, CANARIE, CRC, Compute Canada, FQRNT, and the Ontario Innovation Trust, Canada; EPLANET, ERC, ERDF, FP7, Horizon 2020, and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, European Union; Investissements d’Avenir Labex and Idex, ANR, Région Auvergne and Fondation Partager le Savoir, France; DFG and AuH Foundation, Germany; Herakleitos, Thales, and Aristeia programs cofinanced by EU-ESF and the Greek NSRF; BSF, GIF, and Minerva, Israel; BRF, Norway; CERCA Programme Generalitat de Catalunya, Generalitat Valenciana, Spain; the Royal Society and Leverhulme Trust, United Kingdom. The crucial computing support from all WLCG partners is acknowledged.
gratefully, in particular from CERN; 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 (United Kingdom), and BNL (U.S.); the Tier-2 facilities worldwide; and large non-WLCG resource providers. Major contributors of computing resources are listed in Ref. [67].

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COMBINATION OF SEARCHES FOR HEAVY RESONANCES …

PHYS. REV. D 98, 052008 (2018)
ATLAS Collaboration

1 Department of Physics, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia
2 Physics Department, SUNY Albany, Albany, New York, USA
3 Department of Physics, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
4a Department of Physics, Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey
4b Istanbul Aydin University, Istanbul, Turkey
4c Division of Physics, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara, Turkey
5 LAPP, Université Grenoble Alpes, Université Savoie Mont Blanc, CNRS/IN2P3, Annecy, France
6 High Energy Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois, USA
7 Department of Physics, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, USA
8 Department of Physics, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas, USA
9 Physics Department, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece
10 Physics Department, National Technical University of Athens, Zografou, Greece
11 Department of Physics, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, USA
12 Bahcesehir University, Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, Istanbul, Turkey
12b Istanbul Bilgi University, Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, Istanbul, Turkey
12c Department of Physics, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey
12d Department of Physics Engineering, Gaziantep University, Gaziantep, Turkey
13 Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan
14 Institut de Física d’Altes Energies (IFAE), Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology, Barcelona, Spain
15a Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China
15b Physics Department, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
15c Department of Physics, Nanjing University, Nanjing, China
15d University of Chinese Academy of Science (UCAS), Beijing, China
15e Institute of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
16 Department for Physics and Technology, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
17 Physics Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of California, Berkeley, California, USA
18 Institut fär Physik, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany
19 Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics and Laboratory for High Energy Physics, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland
20 School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom
21 Centro de Investigaciónes, Universidad Antonio Nariño, Bogota, Colombia
22 DEPARTMENT OF FISICA E ASTRONOMIA, UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA, BOLOGNA, ITALY
23 INFN SEZIONE DI BOLOGNA, ITALY
24 Physikalisches Institut, Universität Bonn, Bonn, Germany
25 Department of Physics, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
26 Department of Physics, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA
27 Transilvania University of Brasov, Brasov, Romania
28 Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Bucharest, Romania
29 Department of Physics, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Iasi, Romania
30 National Institute for Research and Development of Isotopic and Molecular Technologies, Physics Department, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
31 University Politehnica Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania
32 West University in Timisoara, Timisoara, Romania
33 Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovak Republic
34 Department of Subnuclear Physics, Institute of Experimental Physics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Kosice, Slovak Republic
35 Physics Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York, USA
36 Departamento de Física, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina
37 Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom
38 Department of Physics, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

052008-27
Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Napoli, Napoli, Italy
INFN Sezione di Pavia, Italy
Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Pavia, Pavia, Italy
INFN Sezione di Pisa, Italy
Dipartimento di Fisica E. Fermi, Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy
INFN Sezione di Roma, Italy
Dipartimento di Fisica, Sapienza Università di Roma, Roma, Italy
INFN Sezione di Roma Tor Vergata, Italy
Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy
INFN Sezione di Roma Tre, Italy
Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica, Università Roma Tre, Roma, Italy
INFN-TIFPA, Italy
Università degli Studi di Trento, Trento, Italy
Institut für Astro- und Teilchenphysik, Leopold-Franzens-Universität, Innsbruck, Austria
University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, USA
Department of Physics and Astronomy, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, USA
Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia
Departamento de Engenharia Elétrica, Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora (UFJF), Juiz de Fora, Brazil
Universidade Federal do Rio De Janeiro COPPE/EE/IF, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Universidade Federal de São João del Rei (UFSJ), São João del Rei, Brazil
Instituto de Física, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
KEK, High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, Tsukuba, Japan
Graduate School of Science, Kobe University, Kobe, Japan
AGH University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Physics and Applied Computer Science, Krakow, Poland
Marian Smoluchowski Institute of Physics, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland
Institute of Nuclear Physics Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow, Poland
Faculty of Science, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan
Kyoto University of Education, Kyoto, Japan
Research Center for Advanced Particle Physics and Department of Physics, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan
Instituto de Física La Plata, Universidad Nacional de La Plata and CONICET, La Plata, Argentina
Physics Department, Lancaster University, Lancaster, United Kingdom
Oliver Lodge Laboratory, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom
Department of Experimental Particle Physics, Jožef Stefan Institute and Department of Physics, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
School of Physics and Astronomy, Queen Mary University of London, London, United Kingdom
Department of Physics, Royal Holloway University of London, Egham, United Kingdom
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London, United Kingdom
Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana, USA
Fysiska institutionen, Lunds universitet, Lund, Sweden
Centre de Calcul de l’Institut National de Physique Nucléaire et de Physique des Particules (IN2P3), Villeurbanne, France
Departamento de Física Teorica C-15 and CIAFF, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain
Institut für Physik, Universität Mainz, Mainz, Germany
School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom
CPPM, Aix-Marseille Université, CNRS/IN2P3, Marseille, France
Department of Physics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA
Department of Physics, McGill University, Montreal, Québec, Canada
School of Physics, University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Department of Physics and Astronomy, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, USA
B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Minsk, Belarus
Research Institute for Nuclear Problems of Byelorussian State University, Minsk, Belarus
Group of Particle Physics, University of Montreal, Montreal, Québec, Canada
P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia
Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics (ITEP), Moscow, Russia
National Research Nuclear University MEPhI, Moscow, Russia
111 D.V. Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
112 Fakultät für Physik, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, München, Germany
113 Max-Planck-Institut für Physik (Werner-Heisenberg-Institut), München, Germany
114 Nagasaki Institute of Applied Science, Nagasaki, Japan
115 Graduate School of Science and Kobayashi-Maskawa Institute, Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan
116 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA
117 Institute for Mathematics, Astrophysics and Particle Physics, Radboud University Nijmegen/Nikhef, Nijmegen, Netherlands
118 Nikhef National Institute for Subatomic Physics and University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands
119 Department of Physics, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, USA
120 Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, SB RAS, Novosibirsk, Russia
121 Department of Physics, New York University, New York, New York, USA
122 Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA
123 Faculty of Science, Okayama University, Okayama, Japan
124 Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, USA
125 Department of Physics, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, USA
126 Palacký University, RCPTM, Joint Laboratory of Optics, Olomouc, Czech Republic
127 Center for High Energy Physics, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, USA
128 LAL, Université Paris-Sud, CNRS/IN2P3, Université Paris-Saclay, Orsay, France
129 Graduate School of Science, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan
130 Department of Physics, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
131 Department of Physics, Oklahoma University, Oklahoma, United Kingdom
132 LPNHE, Sorbonne Université, Paris Diderot Sorbonne Paris Cité, CNRS/IN2P3, Paris, France
133 Department of Physics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
134 Konstantinov Nuclear Physics Institute of National Research Centre “Kurchatov Institute”, PNPI, St. Petersburg, Russia
135 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
136 Laboratório de Instrumentação e Física Experimental de Partículas - LIP, Portugal
137 Departamento de Física, Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
138 Departamento de Física, Universidade de Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal
139 Centro de Física Nuclear da Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
140 Departamento de Física, Universidade do Minho, Braga, Portugal
141 Departamento de Física Teórica y del Cosmos, Universidad de Granada, Granada (Spain), Spain
142 Dep Física and CEFITEC of Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Caparica, Portugal
143 Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic
144 Czech Technical University in Prague, Prague, Czech Republic
145 Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Prague, Czech Republic
146 State Research Center Institute for High Energy Physics, NRC KI, Protvino, Russia
147 Particle Physics Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
148 IRFU, CEA, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France
149 Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California, USA
150 Departamento de Física, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile
151 Departamento de Física, Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María, Valparaíso, Chile
152 Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA
153 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom
154 Department of Physics, Shinshu University, Nagano, Japan
155 Department Physik, Universität Siegen, Siegen, Germany
156 Department of Physics, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada
157 SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Stanford, California, USA
158 Physics Department, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden
159 Departments of Physics and Astronomy, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York, USA
160 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom
161 School of Physics, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
162 Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
163 E. Andronikashvili Institute of Physics, Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
High Energy Physics Institute, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

Department of Physics, Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel

Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Physics and Astronomy, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

Department of Physics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece

International Center for Elementary Particle Physics and Department of Physics, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

Graduate School of Science and Technology, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Tokyo, Japan

Department of Physics, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan

Tomsk State University, Tomsk, Russia

Department of Physics, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

TRIUMF, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Department of Physics and Astronomy, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Division of Physics and Tomonaga Center for the History of the Universe, Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Japan

Department of Physics and Astronomy, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts, USA

Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of California Irvine, Irvine, California, USA

Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Illinois Urbana, Illinois, USA

Instituto de Física Corpuscular (IFIC), Centro Mixto Universidad de Valencia - CSIC, Valencia, Spain

Department of Physics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Fakultät für Physik und Astronomie, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany

Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom

Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan

Department of Particle Physics, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel

Department of Physics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, USA

Fakultät für Mathematik und Naturwissenschaften, Fachgruppe Physik, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany

Department of Physics, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA

Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia

Deceased.

Also at Department of Physics, King’s College London, London, United Kingdom.

Also at Istanbul University, Dept. of Physics, Istanbul, Turkey.

Also at Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan.

Also at TRIUMF, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, USA.

Also at Department of Physics, California State University, Fresno, California, USA.

Also at Department of Physics, University of Fribourg, Fribourg, Switzerland.

Also at Departament de Fisica de la Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.

Also at Tomsk State University, Tomsk, and Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology State University, Dolgoprudny, Russia.

Also at The Collaborative Innovation Center of Quantum Matter (CICQM), Beijing, China.

Also at Universita di Napoli Parthenope, Napoli, Italy.

Also at Institute of Particle Physics (IPP), Canada.

Also at II. Physikalisches Institut, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany.

Also at Dipartimento di Fisica E. Fermi, Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy.

Also at Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Bucharest, Romania.

Also at CPPM, Aix-Marseille Université, CNRS/IN2P3, Marseille, France.

Also at Department of Physics, St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University, St. Petersburg, Russia.

Also at Borough of Manhattan Community College, City University of New York, New York, USA.

Also at Department of Financial and Management Engineering, University of the Aegean, Chios, Greece.

Also at Centre for High Performance Computing, CSIR Campus, Rosebank, Cape Town, South Africa.

Also at Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana, USA.

Also at Institutio Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avancats, ICREA, Barcelona, Spain.

Also at Department of Physics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.

Also at LAL, Université Paris-Sud, CNRS/IN2P3, Université Paris-Saclay, Orsay, France.

Also at Graduate School of Science, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan.

Also at Physikalisches Institut, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany.

Also at Institute for Mathematics, Astrophysics and Particle Physics, Radboud University Nijmegen/Nikhef, Nijmegen, Netherlands.
Also at Institute of Theoretical Physics, Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia.
Also at CERN, Geneva, Switzerland.
Also at Department of Physics, Stanford University, USA.
Also at Manhattan College, New York, New York, USA.
Also at Hellenic Open University, Patras, Greece.
Also at The City College of New York, New York, New York, USA.
Also at Departamento de Física Teorica y del Cosmos, Universidad de Granada, Granada (Spain), Spain.
Also at Department of Physics, California State University, Sacramento, California, USA.
Also at Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology State University, Dolgoprudny, Russia.
Also at Département de Physique Nucléaire et Corpusculaire, Université de Genève, Genève, Switzerland.
Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom.
Also at School of Physics, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China.
Also at Department of Applied Physics and Astronomy, University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.
Also at Institut für Experimentalphysik, Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany.
Also at National Research Nuclear University MEPhI, Moscow, Russia.
Also at Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary.
Also at Giresun University, Faculty of Engineering, Giresun, Turkey.
Also at Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.
Associated at Departamento de Física Teorica y del Cosmos, Universidad de Granada, Granada (Spain), Spain.