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A Large Ion Collider Expt Collab

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Measurement of $\Upsilon(1S)$ Elliptic Flow at Forward Rapidity in Pb-Pb Collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV

S. Acharya et al.*
(A Large Ion Collider Experiment Collaboration)

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The first measurement of the $\Upsilon(1S)$ elliptic flow coefficient ($v_2$) is performed at forward rapidity ($2.5 < y < 4$) in Pb–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV with the ALICE detector at the LHC. The results are obtained with the scalar product method and are reported as a function of transverse momentum ($p_T$) up to 15 GeV/c in the 5%–60% centrality interval. The measured $\Upsilon(1S)v_2$ is consistent with 0 and with the small positive values predicted by transport models within uncertainties. The $v_2$ coefficient in $2 < p_T < 15$ GeV/c is lower than that of inclusive $J/\psi$ mesons in the same $p_T$ interval by 2.6 standard deviations. These results, combined with earlier suppression measurements, are in agreement with a scenario in which the $\Upsilon(1S)$ production in Pb–Pb collisions at LHC energies is dominated by dissociation limited to the early stage of the collision, whereas in the $J/\psi$ case there is substantial experimental evidence of an additional regeneration component.

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At the extreme energy densities and temperatures produced in ultrarelativistic collisions of heavy nuclei, hadronic matter undergoes a transition into a state of deconfined quarks and gluons, known as quark-gluon plasma (QGP). The created QGP medium is characterized as a strongly coupled system, which behaves as an almost perfect fluid in the sense that its shear viscosity to entropy density ratio approaches the smallest possible values [1–3]. Spatial initial state anisotropy of the overlap region of the two colliding nuclei is transformed by the fluid pressure gradients into a momentum anisotropy of the produced final-state particles. This effect is known as hydrodynamic anisotropic flow [4] and is usually quantified in terms of the harmonic coefficients of the Fourier decomposition of the azimuthal particle distribution [5]. The dominant coefficient in noncentral collisions is the second harmonic, denoted by $v_2$ and known as elliptic flow, since this coefficient directly arises from the almond-shaped interaction region between the colliding nuclei. It is approximately proportional to the eccentricity $e_2$ of the initial collision geometry [6]. The proportionality coefficient reflects the response of the QGP medium to the initial anisotropy and depends on the particle type, mass, and kinematics [7].

Charm and beauty quarks are important probes of the QGP. They are created predominantly in hard-scattering processes at the early collision stage and therefore experience the entire evolution of the QGP. The observed significant $D$ meson $v_2$ in nucleus-nucleus collisions suggests that the charm quarks participate in the collective anisotropic flow of the QGP fluid [8–10]. Nevertheless, since the light-flavor quarks also contribute to the $D$-meson flow, detailed comparisons with theoretical models are necessary to draw firm conclusions about the charm-quark flow. Quarkonia, which are bound states of heavy-flavor quark-antiquark pairs, offer a complementary way to study the interaction of the heavy-flavor quarks with the medium and thus to independently shed light on the properties of the QGP [11]. In a simplified picture, quarkonium production is suppressed by color screening inside the QGP medium created in nucleus-nucleus collisions [12]. The level of suppression depends on the heavy-quark interaction and the temperature of the surrounding medium [13,14]. The azimuthal asymmetry of the overlap region of the two colliding nuclei and the dependence of the suppression on the path length traversed by the quark-antiquark pair inside the medium lead to positive $v_2$ values increasing as a function of transverse momentum ($p_T$). At LHC energies, there is evidence for a competing effect that enhances the production of charmonia (bound states of charm quark-antiquark pairs) [15–17]. This effect originates from regeneration of charmonia via recombination of (partially) thermalized charm quarks either during the QGP evolution [18,19] or at the QGP phase boundary [20,21]. It becomes significant at LHC energies due to the large charm-quark production cross section, which implies that a sufficiently

*Full author list given at the end of the article.
high number of charm quarks traveling inside the QGP are available for recombination. Within the regeneration scenario, the elliptic flow of charmonia is directly inherited from the velocity field of the individual charm quarks within the medium and results in a positive $v_2$ coefficient, mainly at low $p_T$. Measurements of significant $J/\psi$-meson $v_2$ coefficient in Pb-Pb collisions at LHC energies clearly speak in favor of charm-quark flow and the regeneration scenario [22–25]. Despite this, the phenomenological models that incorporate transport of heavy-flavor quark-antiquark pairs inside the QGP are not yet able to provide a fully satisfactory description of the $p_T$ dependence of the measured $J/\psi$ elliptic flow [19,26]. Moreover, recent results in high-multiplicity $p$-Pb collisions also indicate a significant $J/\psi v_2$ [27,28], which is unexpected within the present transport models due to the small collision-system size and low number of available charm quarks [29]. Recent calculations within the color-glass condensate framework attribute the suppression and regeneration occur up to a later stage and the excited bottomonium state $\Upsilon$ is higher, and the inherited $v_2$ is larger [36]. Consequently, the measurement of the bottomonium elliptic flow is a crucial ingredient in the study of heavy-flavor interactions with the QGP, not only to complement the corresponding charmonium measurements, but also in the search for any sizable $v_2$ beyond the theoretical expectations.

In this Letter, we present the first measurement of $\Upsilon(1S)$ elliptic flow in Pb-Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV at forward rapidity ($2.5 < y < 4.0$). The $\Upsilon$ mesons are reconstructed via their $\mu^+\mu^-$ decay channel. The results are obtained in the momentum interval $0 < p_T < 15$ GeV/$c$ and the 5%–60% collision centrality interval.

General information on the ALICE apparatus and its performance can be found in Refs. [37,38]. The muon spectrometer, which covers the pseudorapidity range $-4 < \eta < -2.5$, is used to reconstruct muon tracks. (In the ALICE reference frame, the muon spectrometer covers a negative $\eta$ range and consequently a negative $y$ range. The results were chosen to be presented with a positive $y$ notation, due to the symmetry of the collision system.) It consists of a front absorber followed by five tracking stations with the third station placed inside a dipole magnet. Two trigger stations located downstream of an iron wall complete the spectrometer. The silicon pixel detector (SPD) [39,40] consists of two cylindrical layers covering the full azimuthal angle and $|\eta| < 2.0$ and $|\eta| < 1.4$, respectively. The SPD is employed to determine the position of the primary vertex and to reconstruct tracklets, track segments formed by the clusters in the two SPD layers and the primary vertex [41]. Two arrays of 32 scintillator counters each [42], covering $2.8 < \eta < 5.1$ (V0A) and $-3.7 < \eta < -1.7$ (V0C), are used for triggering, the event selection, and the determination of the collision centrality and the event flow vector. In addition, two neutron zero degree calorimeters [43], installed 112.5 m from the interaction point along the beam line on each side, are employed for the event selection.

The data samples recorded by ALICE during the 2015 and 2018 LHC Pb-Pb runs at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV are used for this analysis. The trigger conditions and the event selection criteria are described in Ref. [24]. The primary vertex position is required to be within $\pm 14$ cm from the nominal interaction point along the beam direction. The data are split in intervals of collision centrality, which is obtained based on the total signal in the V0A and V0C detectors [44]. The integrated luminosity of the analyzed data sample is about 750 $\mu$b$^{-1}$.

The muon selection is identical to that used in Refs. [24,27]. The dimuons are reconstructed in the acceptance of the muon spectrometer ($2.5 < \eta < 4.0$) and are required to have a transverse momentum between 0 and 15 GeV/$c$. The alignment of the muon spectrometer is performed based on the MILLEPEDE package [45] and using Pb-Pb data taken with the nominal dipole magnetic field [38]. The presence of the magnetic field limits the precision of the alignment procedure in the track bending direction. Indeed, a study of the reconstructed $\Upsilon$ mass as a function of the momentum of muon tracks ($p_\mu$) reveals a residual misalignment leading to a systematic shift in the measured muon track momentum $\Delta(1/p_\mu) \approx \pm 2.5 \times 10^{-4}$ (GeV/$c$)$^{-1}$, where the sign of the shift depends on the muon charge and the magnetic field polarity. A correction of this misalignment effect is obtained via a high-statistics sample of reconstructed $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ decays and the spectra of high-momentum muon tracks.
The correction is then applied to the reconstructed muon track momentum, resulting in up to 25% improvement of the $\Upsilon(1S)$ mass resolution for $p_T > 6$ GeV/c.

The dimuon invariant mass ($M_{\mu\mu}$) distribution is fitted with a combination of an extended crystal ball (CB2) function for the $\Upsilon(1S)$ signal and a variable-width Gaussian function with a quadratic dependence of the width on $M_{\mu\mu}$ for the background [46]. A binned maximum-likelihood fit is employed. The $\Upsilon(1S)$ peak position and width are left free, while the CB2 tail parameters are fixed to the values extracted from Monte Carlo simulations [35]. The $\Upsilon(2S)$ and $\Upsilon(3S)$ signals are included in the fit. Their peak positions and widths are fixed to those of the $\Upsilon(1S)$ scaled by the ratio of their nominal masses to the nominal mass of the $\Upsilon(1S)$. An example of the $M_{\mu\mu}$ fit is shown in the left panel of Fig. 1. It is worth noting that no statistically significant $\Upsilon(3S)$ is observed in any of the studied centrality and $p_T$ intervals, and thus it is not considered in the further analysis.

The dimuon $v_2$ is measured using the scalar product method [47,48], correlating the reconstructed dimuons with the second-order harmonic event flow vector $Q^{\text{SPD}}_2$ [5,49] calculated from the azimuthal distribution of the reconstructed SPD tracklets

$$v_2 \{\text{SP}\} = \left< u_2 Q^{\text{SPD}}_2 \right> \left< Q^{\text{VOA}}_2 Q^{\text{VOC}}_2 \right>_{\mu\mu},$$

where $u_2 = \exp(i2\varphi)$ is the unit flow vector of the dimuon with azimuthal angle $\varphi$. The brackets $\langle \cdots \rangle_{\mu\mu}$ denote an average over all dimuons belonging to a given $p_T$, $M_{\mu\mu}$ and centrality interval. The $Q^{\text{VOA}}_2$ and $Q^{\text{VOC}}_2$ are the event flow vectors calculated from the azimuthal distribution of the energy deposition measured in the V0A and V0C detectors, respectively, and $^*$ is the complex conjugate. The brackets $\langle \cdots \rangle$ in the denominator denote an average over all events in a sufficiently narrow centrality class that encloses the event containing the dimuon. In order to account for a nonuniform detector response and efficiency, the components of all three event flow vectors are corrected using a recentering procedure [50]. The gaps in pseudorapidity between the muon spectrometer and SPD ($|\Delta\eta| > 1.0$) and between the SPD, V0A, and V0C remove autocorrelations and suppress short-range correlations unrelated to the azimuthal asymmetry in the initial geometry (“nonflow”), which largely come from jets and resonance decays. In the following, the $v_2 \{\text{SP}\}$ coefficient is denoted as $v_2$.

The $\Upsilon(1S)v_2$ coefficient is obtained by a least squares fit of the superposition of the $\Upsilon(1S)$ signal and the background to the dimuon flow coefficient as a function of the dimuon invariant mass [51]

$$v_2(M_{\mu\mu}) = \alpha(M_{\mu\mu})v_2^{\Upsilon(1S)} + [1 - \alpha(M_{\mu\mu})]v_B^B(M_{\mu\mu}),$$

where $v_2^{\Upsilon(1S)}$ is the flow coefficient of the signal, $v_B^B$ is the $M_{\mu\mu}$-dependent flow coefficient of the background, and $\alpha(M_{\mu\mu})$ is the signal fraction, obtained from the fit of the $M_{\mu\mu}$ distribution described above. The background $v_B^B$ is modeled as a second-order polynomial function of $M_{\mu\mu}$. For consistency, and despite its low yield, the $\Upsilon(2S)$ is included in the fit by restricting the value of its $v_2$ coefficient within the range between $-0.5$ and $0.5$. In practice, this inclusion has a negligible impact on the $\Upsilon(1S)$ fit results. An example of $v_2(M_{\mu\mu})$ fit is presented in the right panel of Fig. 1.

The main systematic uncertainty of the measurement arises from the choice of the background fit function $v_B^B(M_{\mu\mu})$. In order to estimate this uncertainty, linear and constant functions are also used instead of the second-order

![FIG. 1. Left: The $M_{\mu\mu}$ distribution in the 5%-60% centrality interval and $2 < p_T < 15$ GeV/c fitted with a combination of an extended crystal ball function for the signal and a variable-width Gaussian function for the background. Right: The $v_2(M_{\mu\mu})$ distribution in the same centrality and $p_T$ intervals fitted with the function from Eq. (2).](192301-3)
polynomial. In addition, the signal CB2 tail parameters and background fit functions are varied [35]. The systematic uncertainty is then derived as the standard deviation with respect to the default choice of fitting functions. The absolute uncertainty increases from 0.004 to 0.016 with increasing collision centrality and decreasing $p_T$, which is due to the decreasing signal-to-background ratio. The dimuon trigger and reconstruction efficiency depends on the detector occupancy. This, coupled to the muon flow, could lead to a bias in the measured $v_2$. The corresponding systematic uncertainty is obtained by embedding simulated $Y(1S)$ decays into real Pb-Pb events [24]. It is found to be at most 0.0015 and is conservatively assumed to be the same in all transverse momentum and centrality intervals. The variations of the fit range and invariant-mass binning do not lead to deviations beyond the expected statistical fluctuations. The uncertainty related to the magnitude of the $Q_2^{SPD}$ flow vector is found to be negligible. Furthermore, the absence of any residual nonuniform detector acceptance and efficiency in the SPD flow vector determination after applying the recen-
tering procedure is verified via the imaginary part of the SPD flow vector determination after applying the recen-
tering procedure described in Ref.[24]. Given that any difference between $\rho(y, S^{006})$ and $\rho(y, S^{006})$ are very close at mid and forward rapidities [36], the observed difference between the two models is analogous to the charged-particle multiplicity density [53]. The presented $Y(1S) v_2$ result is coherent with the measured $Y(1S)$ suppression in Pb-Pb collisions [35], as the level of suppression is also fairly well reproduced by the BBJS model and the TAMU model including or excluding a regeneration component. Therefore, the result is in agreement with a scenario in which the predominant mechanism affecting $Y(1S)$ production in Pb-Pb collisions at the LHC energies is the dissociation limited to the early stage of the collision. It is interesting to note that the presented $Y(1S) v_2$ results are reminiscent of the corresponding charmonia measurements in Au-Au collisions at RHIC [54], where so far non-
observation of significant $v_2$ is commonly interpreted as a sign of a small regeneration component from recombination of thermalized charm quarks at lower RHIC energies.

The $Y(1S) v_2$ values in the three $p_T$ intervals shown in Fig. 2 are found to be lower, albeit with large uncertainties, compared to those of the inclusive $J/\psi$ measured in the same centrality and $p_T$ intervals using the data sample and analysis procedure described in Ref. [24]. Given that any $v_2$ originating either from recombination or from path-length dependent dissociation vanishes at zero $p_T$, the observed difference between $Y(1S)$ and $J/\psi v_2$ is quantified by performing the $p_T$ -integrated measurement excluding the low $p_T$ range. Figure 3 presents the $Y(1S) v_2$ coefficient integrated over the transverse momentum range $2 < p_T < 15 \text{GeV}/c$ for three centrality intervals compared with that of the inclusive $J/\psi$. The $Y(1S) v_2$ is found to be $-0.003 \pm 0.030(\text{stat}) \pm 0.006(\text{syst})$ in the $2 < p_T < 15 \text{GeV}/c$ and 5%–60% centrality interval. This value is lower than the corresponding $J/\psi v_2$ by 2.6$\sigma$. This observation, coupled to the different measured centrality and $p_T$ dependence of the $Y(1S)$ and $J/\psi$ suppression in Pb-Pb collisions at the LHC [17,35], can be interpreted within the models used for comparison as a sign that unlike $Y(1S)$, $J/\psi$ production has a significant regeneration component.

![FIG. 2. The $Y(1S) v_2$ coefficient as a function of $p_T$ in the 5%–60% centrality interval compared to that of inclusive $J/\psi$. The cyan dashed line represents the BBJS model calculations [52], while the magenta band denotes the TAMU model calculations [36]. Error bars (open boxes) represent the statistical (systematic) uncertainties.](image-url)
Nevertheless, no firm conclusions can be drawn, given that currently the transport models cannot explain the significant $J/\psi v_2$ for $p_T > 4$–5 GeV/$c$ observed in the data [23].

In summary, the first measurement of the $\Upsilon(1S)$ $v_2$ coefficient in Pb-Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02$ TeV is presented. The measurement is performed in the 5%–60% centrality interval within $0 < p_T < 15$ GeV/$c$ range at forward rapidity. The $v_2$ coefficient is compatible with 0 and with the model predictions within uncertainties. Excluding low $p_T (0 < p_T < 2$ GeV/$c$), $\Upsilon(1S)$ $v_2$ is found to be $2.6\sigma$ lower with respect to that of inclusive $J/\psi$. The presented measurement opens the way for further studies of bottomonium flow using the future data samples from the LHC Runs 3 and 4 with an expected tenfold increase in the number of the $\Upsilon$ candidates [55,56].

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21 Department of Physics, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
22 Department of Physics and Technology, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
23 Dipartimento di Fisica dell’Università ‘La Sapienza’, Rome, Italy
24 Dipartimento di Fisica dell’Università, Cagliari, Italy
25 Dipartimento di Fisica dell’Università, Trieste, Italy
26 Dipartimento di Fisica dell’Università, Turin, Italy
27 Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia dell’Università, Bologna, Italy
28 Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia dell’Università, Catania, Italy
29 Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia dell’Università, Padova, Italy
30 Dipartimento di Fisica ‘E.R. Caianiello’ dell’Università, Salerno, Italy
31 Dipartimento DISAT del Politecnico and Sezione INFN, Turin, Italy
32 Dipartimento di Scienze e Innovazione Tecnologica dell’Università del Piemonte Orientale and INFN Sezione di Torino, Alessandria, Italy
33 Dipartimento Interateneo di Fisica ‘M. Merlin’, Bari, Italy
34 European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Geneva, Switzerland
35 Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, University of Split, Split, Croatia
36 Faculty of Engineering and Science, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Bergen, Norway
37 Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic
38 Faculty of Science, P.J. Šafář University, Košice, Slovakia
39 Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany
40 Gangneung-Wonju National University, Gangneung, Republic of Korea
41 Gauhati University, Department of Physics, Guwahati, India
42 Helmholtz-Institut für Strahlen- und Kernphysik, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Bonn, Germany
43 Helsinki Institute of Physics (HIP), Helsinki, Finland
44 High Energy Physics Group, Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Puebla, Mexico
45 Hiroshima University, Hiroshima, Japan
46 Hochschule Worms, Zentrum für Technologie-Transfer und Telekommunikation (ZITT), Worms, Germany
47 Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Bucharest, Romania
48 Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT), Mumbai, India
49 Indian Institute of Technology Indore, Indore, India
50 Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Jakarta, Indonesia
51 INFN, Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy
52 INFN, Sezione di Bari, Bari, Italy
53 INFN, Sezione di Bologna, Bologna, Italy
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55 INFN, Sezione di Catania, Catania, Italy
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57 INFN, Sezione di Roma, Rome, Italy
58 INFN, Sezione di Torino, Turin, Italy
59 INFN, Sezione di Trieste, Trieste, Italy
60 Inha University, Republic of Korea
61 Institut de Physique Nucléaire d’Orsay (IPNO), Institut National de Physique Nucléaire et de Physique des Particules (IN2P3/CNRS), Université de Paris-Sud, Université Paris-Saclay, Orsay, France
62 Institute for Nuclear Research, Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia
63 Institute for Subatomic Physics, Utrecht University/Nikhef, Utrecht, Netherlands
64 Institute of Experimental Physics, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Košice, Slovakia
65 Institute of Physics, Homi Bhabha National Institute, Bhubaneswar, India
66 Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic
67 Institute of Space Science (ISS), Bucharest, Romania
68 Institut für Kernphysik, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany
69 Instituto de Ciencias Nucleares, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, Mexico
Instituto de Física, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Porto Alegre, Brazil
Instituto de Física, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, Mexico
iThemba LABS, National Research Foundation, Somerset West, South Africa
Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe Universität Frankfurt Institut für Informatik, Fachbereich Informatik und Mathematik, Frankfurt, Germany
Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR), Dubna, Russia
Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information, Daejeon, Republic of Korea
KTO Karatay University, Konya, Turkey
Laboratoire de Physique Subatomique et de Cosmologie, Université Grenoble-Alpes, CNRS-IN2P3, Grenoble, France
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, United States
Lund University Department of Physics, Division of Particle Physics, Lund, Sweden
Nagasaki Institute of Applied Science, Nagasaki, Japan
Nara Women’s University (NWU), Nara, Japan
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, School of Science, Department of Physics, Athens, Greece
National Centre for Nuclear Research, Warsaw, Poland
National Institute of Science Education and Research, Homi Bhabha National Institute, Jatni, India
National Research Centre Kurchatov Institute, Moscow, Russia
National Research Centre Kurchatov Institute IHEP, Protvino, Russia
NRC «Kurchatov Institute» — ITEP, Moscow, Russia
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Nuclear Physics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Řež u Prahy, Czech Republic
Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, United States
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Physics Department, University of Jammu, Jammu, India
Physics Department, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, India
Physikalisches Institut, Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany
Physikalisches Institut, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany
Physik Department, Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany
Politecnico di Bari, Bari, Italy
Research Division and ExtreMe Matter Institute EMMI, GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung GmbH, Bari, Italy
Rudjer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Croatia
Russian Federal Nuclear Center (VNIIEF), Sarov, Russia
Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Homi Bhabha National Institute, Kolkata, India
School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom
Sección Física, Departamento de Ciencias, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima, Peru
Shanghai Institute of Applied Physics, Shanghai, China
St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia
Stefan Meyer Institut für Subatomare Physik (SMI), Vienna, Austria
SUBATECH, IMT Atlantique, Université de Nantes, CNRS-IN2P3, Nantes, France
Suranaree University of Technology, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand
Technical University of Košice, Košice, Slovakia
Technische Universität München, Excellence Cluster Universe, Munich, Germany
The Henryk Niewodniczanski Institute of Nuclear Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Cracow, Poland
The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, United States
The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas, United States
The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, United States
University Autónoma de Sinaloa, Culiacán, Mexico
Universidade de São Paulo (USP), São Paulo, Brazil
Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP), Campinas, Brazil
Universidade Federal do ABC, Santo André, Brazil
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University of South-Eastern Norway, Tonsberg, Norway
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135 Université de Lyon, Université Lyon 1, CNRS/IN2P3, IPN-Lyon, Villeurbanne, Lyon, France
136 Université de Strasbourg, CNRS, IPHC UMR 7178, F-67000 Strasbourg, France, Strasbourg, France
137 Université Paris-Saclay Centre d’Études de Saclay (CEA), IRFU, Département de Physique Nucléaire (DPhN), Saclay, France
138 Università degli Studi di Foggia, Foggia, Italy
139 Università degli Studi di Pavia, Pavia, Italy
140 Università di Brescia, Brescia, Italy
141 Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre, Homi Bhabha National Institute, Kolkata, India
142 Warsaw University of Technology, Warsaw, Poland
143 Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, United States
144 Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Institut für Kernphysik, Münster, Germany
145 Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary
146 Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, United States
147 Yonsei University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

† Deceased.
* Also at Dipartimento DET del Politecnico di Torino, Turin, Italy.
† Also at M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, D.V. Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear, Physics, Moscow, Russia.
‡ Also at Department of Applied Physics, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India.
§ Also at Institute of Theoretical Physics, University of Wroclaw, Poland.