Search for a heavy resonance decaying to a top quark and a vector-like top quark at root s=13 TeV

Sirunyan, A. M.

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Search for a heavy resonance decaying to a top quark and a vector-like top quark at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV

The CMS collaboration

E-mail: cms-publication-committee-chair@cern.ch

ABSTRACT: A search is presented for massive spin-1 $Z'$ resonances decaying to a top quark and a heavy vector-like top quark partner $T$. The search is based on a 2.6 fb$^{-1}$ sample of proton-proton collisions at 13 TeV collected with the CMS detector at the LHC. The analysis is optimized for final states in which the $T$ quark decays to a W boson and a bottom quark. The focus is on all-jet final states in which both the W boson and the top quark decay into quarks that evolve into jets. The decay products of the top quark and of the W boson are assumed to be highly Lorentz-boosted and cannot be reconstructed as separate jets, but are instead reconstructed as merged, wide jets. Techniques for the identification of jet substructure and jet flavour are used to distinguish signal from background events. Several models for $Z'$ bosons decaying to $T$ quarks are excluded at 95% confidence level, with upper limits on the cross section ranging from 0.13 to 10 pb, depending on the chosen hypotheses. This is the first search for a neutral spin-1 heavy resonance decaying to a top quark and a vector-like $T$ quark in the all-hadronic final state.

KEYWORDS: Beyond Standard Model, Hadron-Hadron scattering (experiments), Top physics

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1 Introduction

Many theoretical models of physics beyond the standard model (SM) predict the existence of heavy bosonic resonances [1–9]. Such resonances include $Z'$ gauge bosons [10–12] and Kaluza-Klein excitations of a gluon in Randall-Sundrum models [13, 14]. In many cases the couplings of these resonances to third-generation SM quarks are enhanced, leading to decay channels containing top quarks.

The CMS and ATLAS Collaborations at the CERN LHC have performed several searches for heavy resonances decaying to top quark-antiquark pairs ($t\bar{t}$) [15–21], placing very stringent limits on their production cross sections in the accessible kinematic range. However, in models with a heavy gluon [22, 23], a composite Higgs boson [24], or extra spatial dimensions [22, 25], an additional fermionic sector may be present in the form of a nonchiral (or vector-like) fourth generation of quarks. Topologies in which the $Z'$ boson decays into vector-like quarks have not yet been investigated experimentally. This search focuses on the kinematic range in which $Z'$ boson decays to $t\bar{T}$ dominate over those to $TT$, where $T$ is a vector-like heavy quark with a charge of two thirds.

Vector-like quarks are fermions whose left- and right-handed components transform in the same way under the electroweak symmetry group of the SM. Consequently, their masses can be generated through direct mass terms in the Lagrangian, rather than via Yukawa couplings. This feature makes theories that include a heavy vector-like quark sector compatible with current Higgs boson measurements [26].
We present results of the first search for neutral spin-1 heavy resonances decaying to a top quark and a vector-like quark, in all-jet final states. The search utilizes data from proton-proton collisions at a centre-of-mass energy of 13 TeV. The analysis is optimized for the $T \rightarrow bW$ decay mode, but also considers the $T \rightarrow tH$ and $T \rightarrow TZ$ decays.

The results of the analysis are compared with the predictions of two theoretical models. The first model [22] is an effective theory with one warped extra dimension that considers only the lowest-energy spin-1 and spin-1/2 resonances to describe the decays of the lightest Kaluza-Klein excitation of the gluon, $G^*$, to one SM particle and one heavy fermion. We consider the specific case where the $G^*$ resonance decays to a top quark and a heavy top quark partner $T$. The model assumes branching fractions ($B$) to be 50/25/25% for $T$ quark decay to the $bW/tH/tZ$ channels. Benchmark values of $\tan \beta_3 = 0.44$, $\sin \phi_{tR} = 0.6$, and $Y_s = 3$ are used for the model parameters. These benchmark values enhance the decays of the heavy resonance to a SM quark and a vector-like quark. The definitions of the parameters, the choice of their values, and their impact on the cross section are explained in ref. [22], and the significant discovery potential of the LHC already with comparatively small luminosity is discussed. This model predicts the existence of other vector-like quarks such as the $T_{5/3}$ quark, with a charge of five-thirds and a mass lower than the mass of the $T$ quark. These other heavy quarks can have a moderate impact on the branching fraction of the $G^*$ resonance to $Tt$, and their contribution is properly taken into account when comparing the model with the results of the analysis. In particular, the $T_{5/3}$ quark becomes relevant when the mass of the $G^*$ resonance is twice its mass.

The second model [24] is a minimal composite effective theory of the Higgs boson based on the coset $SO(5)/SO(4)$, describing the phenomenology of heavy vector resonances, with particular focus on their interactions with top quark partners. The results of the analysis are compared with the cross section for a neutral spin-1 resonance $\rho_L^0$ decaying to a top quark and a heavy top quark partner $T$. The model assumes $T$ branching fractions to $tH/tZ$ channels of 50/50%. The following are benchmark values of the model parameters: $y_L = c_3 = c_2 = 1$, and $g_{\rho_L} = 3$. The model parameters and the choice of benchmark values are described in [24]. This model is used to simulate signal samples.

The $G^*$ and the $\rho_L^0$ resonances are candidates for the $Z'$ of this search and are both produced through quark-antiquark pair interactions at the LHC. The kinematic distributions of the decay modes considered are comparable between the two models. Hypothetical top quark flavour-changing neutral currents generated in the interaction between the top quark, $Z'$ boson, and $T$ quark are estimated to be below the reach of current measurements [27] because of the large suppression generated by off-shell effects of the $Z'$ boson and the $T$ quark. The leading order Feynman diagram for the production of the $Z'$ boson and the decay chain under consideration is depicted in figure 1.

Because of the large difference in mass between the $W$ boson and the $T$ quark, the $W$ boson receives a large Lorentz boost, such that its decay products appear as merged jets (in a highly-boosted topology). Jet substructure algorithms are employed to reconstruct and identify the $W$ boson originating from the decay of the $T$ quark. If the mass difference between the $Z'$ boson and the $T$ quark is much larger than the mass of the top quark, the top quark from the decay of the $Z'$ boson also receives a large transverse momentum ($p_T$),
Figure 1. The leading order Feynman diagram showing the production mode of the $Z'$ boson and its decay chain.

in which case jet-substructure techniques can also be used to identify and reconstruct the all-jets decay of the top quark.

The dominant background is from SM events and is comprised of jets produced through the strong interaction, i.e. quantum chromodynamics (QCD) multijet events, followed by events from $t\bar{t}$ pair production and from single top quark production. The contribution of the latter processes is estimated from simulation, while the multijet QCD background is estimated from data using signal-depleted control regions.

This paper is organized as follows: section 2 gives a description of the CMS detector and the reconstruction of events. Section 3 describes the data and the simulated samples used in the analysis. An overview of the jet-substructure algorithms and the details of the selection for the analysis are given in section 4. Estimation of SM background processes is discussed in section 5, while section 6 describes the systematic uncertainties. The results of the analysis and a summary are given in sections 7 and 8, respectively.

2 The CMS detector

The central feature of the CMS apparatus is a superconducting solenoid of 6 m internal diameter, providing a magnetic field of 3.8 T. Within the solenoid volume are a silicon pixel and strip tracker, a lead tungstate crystal electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL), and a brass and scintillator hadron calorimeter (HCAL), each composed of a barrel and two endcap sections. Forward calorimeters extend the pseudorapidity ($\eta$) coverage provided by the barrel and endcap detectors. Muons are measured in gas-ionization detectors embedded in the steel flux-return yoke outside the solenoid.

A particle-flow event algorithm [28, 29] reconstructs and identifies each individual particle with an optimized combination of information from the various elements of the CMS detector. The energy of photons is directly obtained from the ECAL measurement, corrected for zero-suppression effects. The energy of electrons is determined from a combination of the electron momentum at the primary interaction vertex as determined by the tracker, the energy of the corresponding ECAL cluster, and the energy sum of all bremsstrahlung photons spatially compatible with originating from the electron track.
energy of muons is obtained from the curvature of the corresponding track. The energy of charged hadrons is determined from a combination of their momentum measured in the tracker and the matching ECAL and HCAL energy deposits, corrected for zero-suppression effects and for the response function of the calorimeters to hadronic showers. Finally, the energy of neutral hadrons is obtained from the corresponding corrected sum of ECAL and HCAL energies. Primary vertices are reconstructed using a deterministic annealing filter algorithm [30]. The vertex with the largest sum of the squares of the associated track $p_T$ values is taken to be the primary event vertex. A more detailed description of the CMS detector, together with a definition of the coordinate system used and the relevant kinematic variables, can be found in ref. [31].

3 Data and simulation samples

The analysis is based on data from proton-proton collisions collected in 2015 by the CMS experiment at a centre-of-mass energy of 13 TeV, corresponding to a total integrated luminosity of $2.6 \text{ fb}^{-1}$. The events are selected with an online trigger that required the scalar $p_T$ sum of the jets ($H_T$) to be larger than 800 GeV. The offline $H_T$ is required to be larger than 850 GeV. After this selection, the trigger is more than 97% efficient in selecting those events that would pass the analysis selection. The trigger and offline $H_T$ selections do not significantly impact the overall signal efficiency because the masses of the spin-1 resonances considered in this analysis are at least 1.5 TeV.

The signal processes are simulated using MadGraph v5.2.2.2 [32]. Neutral spin-1 resonances ($Z’$ boson) decaying exclusively to a top quark and an up-type heavy vector-like quark (T) are generated. Data samples are produced for three values of mass of the $Z’$ boson and a width of 1% the mass. For the T quark samples the width of the quark is fixed to 1 MeV. The values of the width are chosen to be much smaller than the detector resolution. The T quark is generated with left-handed chirality. The impact of the chirality of the T quark on the analysis is assessed on a single signal configuration and is found to be insignificant, and for this reason the right-handed chirality case is not explicitly considered.

The simulation of the signal event production is based on a simplified low-energy effective theory describing the phenomenology of heavy vector resonances in the minimal composite Higgs model [24]. Signal samples are generated for three decay modes of the T quark: $T \to bW$, $tH$, and $tZ$. Several mass hypotheses for the $Z’$ (T) resonance are considered ranging from 1.5 to 2.5 (0.7 to 1.5) TeV. The combination of the $Z’$ and T masses is chosen such that the mass of the T quark is roughly 1/2, 2/3, or 5/6 of the $Z’$ boson mass. For some of the samples generated, the top quark from the decay of the $Z’$ boson receives a small $p_T$ and its decay does not result in a boosted topology.

The decay of heavy resonances in signal events is processed with MadSpin [33] to correctly treat the spin correlations in the decay chain. The matrix element calculations for signal processes include one extra parton at most emitted at tree level. To model fragmentation and parton showering, the PYTHIA 8.2 [34] tune CUETPSM1 [35] is used, and the MLM scheme [36] is used to match parton emission in the matrix element with the parton shower. Differential jet rates are checked for smoothness to ensure that the matching scale is chosen correctly.
Background top quark pair production is simulated with the next-to-leading-order generator \textsc{powheg} v2 [37–41]. The $t\bar{t}$ event sample is normalized to the next-to-next-to-leading order (NNLO) cross section of $\sigma_{t\bar{t}} = 831.76 \text{pb}$ [42]. Background events from single top quark production in the $tW$ channel are also generated with \textsc{powheg} v2 and are normalized to a cross section of $71.7 \text{pb}$ [43]. Single top quark production in the $s$ and $t$ channels without an associated W boson is generated with \textsc{MadGraph} v5.2.2.2 [32] and the cross sections are normalized to 10.32 and 216.99 pb, respectively [44, 45]. All samples are interfaced to \textsc{Pythia} 8.2 for fragmentation and parton showering. The multijet QCD production is estimated from data. Simulated multijet QCD events are used only to validate the method of background estimation and are generated with \textsc{Pythia} 8.2, binned in $H_T$ to increase the event sample in the high-energy region.

All events were generated with the NNPDF 3.0 parton distribution functions (PDFs) [46]. All simulated event samples include the simulation of additional inelastic proton-proton interactions within the same or adjacent bunch crossings (pileup). The detector response is simulated with the \textsc{Geant4} package [47, 48]. Simulated events are processed through the same software chain as used for collision data and are reweighted to match the observed distribution of the number of pileup interactions in data.

4 Event reconstruction and selection

For each event, hadronic jets are clustered from the reconstructed particles with the infrared and collinear safe anti-$k_T$ algorithm [49], using the \textsc{FastJet} 3.0 software package [50, 51] with the distance parameters $R = 0.4$ (AK4 jets) and 0.8 (AK8 jets). The two types of jets are reconstructed independently. Charged hadrons not associated with the primary vertex of the interaction are not considered when clustering. Corrections based on the jet area [52] are applied to remove the energy contribution of neutral hadrons arising from pileup collisions. Further corrections are used to account for the nonlinear calorimeter response as a function of $\eta$ and $p_T$ [53], derived from simulation and from data-to-simulation correction factors. Spurious jets due to detector noise effects are removed by requiring that neutral particles contribute less than 99% of the electromagnetic and hadronic energy in a jet. Only jets with $|\eta| < 2.4$ are considered; no requirements on lepton or imbalance in transverse momentum are applied.

This analysis considers signal events characterized by a three-jet topology. One of the jets corresponds to the boosted top quark from the decay of the $Z'$ boson, the second originates from the W boson of the $T$ quark decay, and the third is from the b quark emitted in the $T$ quark decay. These selection criteria are optimized for the decay of the $T$ quark to $bW$, but the analysis is sensitive to the other decay modes of the $T$ quark as well. To identify t jets, the jets associated with top quarks, the “CMS top tagger v2” [54] algorithm is used. In this algorithm, the constituents of the AK8 jets are reclustered using the Cambridge-Aachen algorithm [55, 56]. The modified mass-drop tagger algorithm [57], also known as the “soft drop” algorithm with angular exponent $\beta = 0$, soft threshold $z_{\text{cut}} < 0.1$, and characteristic radius $R_0 = 0.8$ [58], is used to remove soft, wide-angle radiation from the jet. This algorithm identifies two subjets within the AK8 jet corresponding to the b
jet and the decay of the W boson. Additionally, the “N-subjettiness” variables $\tau_N$ [59, 60] are used. These variables, calculated using all the particle-flow constituents of the AK8 jet, quantify the degree to which a jet can be regarded as composed of N subjets.

For the identification of top quark candidates, the soft-drop mass, $m_{SD}$, is required to satisfy $110 < m_{SD} < 210$ GeV and the N-subjettiness variable is required to satisfy $\tau_3/\tau_2 < 0.86$. These selections correspond to a misidentification rate of 10% for multijet QCD, and an efficiency greater than 70%. To ensure that the decays of the top quark are merged in a single jet, AK8 jets are required to have $p_T > 400$ GeV. Jets satisfying the aforementioned momentum, mass, and N-subjettiness selections are referred to as “t-tagged”.

For the identification of W jets, the same jet reclustering procedure as in the t tagging algorithm is chosen. Additionally, jets are required to fulfill $70 < m_{SD} < 100$ GeV, $\tau_2/\tau_1 < 0.6$, and $p_T > 200$ GeV. These criteria correspond to a misidentification rate of approximately 5% for multijet QCD, and an efficiency of approximately 60% for genuine W bosons not coming from the decay of a top quark. Jets satisfying these requirements are referred to as “W-tagged”.

The Combined Secondary Vertex v2 (CSVv2) algorithm [61, 62] is used to identify AK4 jets originating from b quarks (b tagging). The ‘medium’ working point of the algorithm is used, which provides an efficiency of approximately 70% for the identification of genuine b quark jets while rejecting 90% of light-flavour jets. The ‘loose’ working point of the algorithm is used for the background estimation, providing an efficiency of approximately 85% and a light-flavour rejection rate of 90%. Additionally, t-tagged jets with a b-tagged subjet [20, 62] are used to improve the discrimination power against background processes. The CSVv2 algorithm with the ‘medium’ working point is used for subjet b tagging.

The events are required to have at least one b-tagged AK4 jet [61], with $p_T > 100$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$. To avoid possible overlaps, the AK4 jet is required to have an angular separation, $\Delta R$, of at least 0.8 with respect to the t-tagged jet and the W-tagged jet. The angular separation variable $\Delta R$ is defined as $\sqrt{(\Delta \phi)^2 + (\Delta \eta)^2}$, where $\phi$ is the azimuthal angle. Among the b jets satisfying these requirements, the one with the highest $p_T$ is selected. The T quark candidate four-momentum is defined as the sum of the 4-vectors of the selected b jet and the W-tagged jet. Only events with a T quark candidate mass $m_T > 500$ GeV are considered. This selection criterion helps to reject the tf background. The reconstructed Z’ boson candidate four-momentum is defined as the sum of the 4-vectors of the T quark candidate and the selected t-tagged jet. The invariant mass of the Z’ boson candidate $m_{Z'}$ is used as the main discriminating observable in the analysis.

Events are grouped into two separate categories according to the presence or absence of a b-tagged subjet in the t-tagged jet. Events containing a b-tagged subjet are placed in the “SR 2 b tag category” as they contain one b-tagged AK4 jet together with a b-tagged subjet associated with the t-tagged jet, as opposed to events in the “SR 1 b tag category” that contain only one b-tagged AK4 jet. No selection criteria are applied to specifically target the tH and tZ final states of the T quark.

Table 1 shows the selection efficiency for the signal in the different event categories. The samples with the smallest difference in mass between the Z’ boson and T quark have a degraded reconstruction efficiency because of the low $p_T$ of the top quark originating from
Table 1. Selection efficiencies for the signal in the categories used in the analysis. The quoted uncertainties are statistical.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$m_{Z'}$ [GeV]</th>
<th>$m_T$ [GeV]</th>
<th>Efficiency SR 1 b tag [%]</th>
<th>Efficiency SR 2 b tag [%]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1500</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>1.2 ± 0.2</td>
<td>1.9 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>0.74 ± 0.17</td>
<td>1.1 ± 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>0.23 ± 0.09</td>
<td>0.21 ± 0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>2.6 ± 0.3</td>
<td>3.6 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>2.1 ± 0.3</td>
<td>3.0 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>0.89 ± 0.18</td>
<td>0.87 ± 0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2500</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>3.3 ± 0.4</td>
<td>3.9 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2500</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>2.8 ± 0.3</td>
<td>3.6 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$\mathcal{B}(T \rightarrow bW) = 1$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$m_{Z'}$ [GeV]</th>
<th>$m_T$ [GeV]</th>
<th>Efficiency SR 1 b tag [%]</th>
<th>Efficiency SR 2 b tag [%]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1500</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>0.55 ± 0.15</td>
<td>0.75 ± 0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>0.65 ± 0.16</td>
<td>0.93 ± 0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>0.26 ± 0.10</td>
<td>0.37 ± 0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>1.8 ± 0.3</td>
<td>2.6 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>2.0 ± 0.3</td>
<td>2.9 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>1.7 ± 0.3</td>
<td>2.2 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2500</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>2.9 ± 0.3</td>
<td>3.9 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2500</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>3.0 ± 0.3</td>
<td>4.1 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$\mathcal{B}(T \rightarrow tH) = 1$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$m_{Z'}$ [GeV]</th>
<th>$m_T$ [GeV]</th>
<th>Efficiency SR 1 b tag [%]</th>
<th>Efficiency SR 2 b tag [%]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1500</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>0.62 ± 0.15</td>
<td>0.84 ± 0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>0.78 ± 0.17</td>
<td>0.98 ± 0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>0.50 ± 0.14</td>
<td>0.54 ± 0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>2.4 ± 0.3</td>
<td>3.1 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>2.8 ± 0.3</td>
<td>3.9 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>2.3 ± 0.3</td>
<td>2.8 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2500</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>4.3 ± 0.4</td>
<td>5.4 ± 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2500</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>4.5 ± 0.4</td>
<td>6.0 ± 0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$\mathcal{B}(T \rightarrow tZ) = 1$

the decay of the $Z'$ boson. For several mass points the reconstruction efficiency is higher for the $T \rightarrow tH$ or $T \rightarrow tZ$ decay channel than for $T \rightarrow bW$, for which the analysis is optimized. This is because if the $T$ quark decays to a $t$ quark instead of a $b$ quark, there are two $t$ quarks in the final state, hence it is more likely that at least one of the two $t$ quarks will be tagged. In addition to this, $t$ quarks coming from the decay of a $T$ quark have a higher $p_T$, therefore are more likely to be tagged.
Table 2. Summary of the selection criteria for the event categories in the signal region (SR) and the sideband region (SB).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection</th>
<th>SR 1 b tag</th>
<th>SB for 1 b tag</th>
<th>SR 2 b tag</th>
<th>SB for 2 b tag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 t tag and 1 W tag</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subjet b tag on t-tagged jet</td>
<td>Veto</td>
<td>Veto</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 AK4 jet, $p_T &gt; 100$ GeV.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta R(t - W - jet, jet) &gt; 0.8$</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b tag on AK4 jet</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>“loose” Veto</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>“loose” Veto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$m_T &gt; 500$ GeV</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 Background estimation

There are two dominant source of background: multijet QCD production and top quark production, including both $t\bar{t}$ and single top quark contributions. The multijet background contribution is the most important for this search. Approximately 20% of the top quark production in the signal region is composed of single top quark events, mostly in the $tW$ channel. Pair production of top quarks in association with a vector boson is not a relevant background for this analysis because of the non-boosted nature of the process and its relatively small cross section. Its contribution is estimated to be less than 0.3% of the total number of events in the signal region.

The multijet background is derived from data with the following procedure. Sideband regions are defined by inverting the b tagging requirement on the AK4 jet for the selection of the signal. Specifically, the AK4 jet has to fail the b tagging requirement, using a ‘loose’ operating point of the b tagging algorithm. Events with additional b-tagged jets are vetoed to ensure independence with respect to the signal region. Two different sideband regions are used for the two signal categories according to the presence or absence of a b-tagged subjet in the t-tagged jet. A summary of the selection criteria is shown in table 2.

The shape of the $m_{Z'}$ distribution is compared between the sideband region and the signal region in a sample of simulated multijet QCD events. Figure 2 shows the bin-by-bin ratio of the signal region to the sideband region. Both histograms are normalized to unity before computing the ratio.

The ratio is fit with a second-order polynomial function, which represents the correction factor required to weight the events in the sideband region to reproduce the shape of the multijet background in the signal region. This is the simplest functional form providing a satisfactory fit. To avoid double counting when estimating the multijet background from data, the top quark contribution in the sideband region, estimated from simulation, is subtracted. Good agreement in shape between data and simulated events is observed in the sideband regions.

The normalization of the predicted multijet background cannot be reliably extracted from simulation and is fixed by a maximum likelihood fit to data in the signal region in a background-only hypothesis. The contribution from $t\bar{t}$ is properly taken into account. A flat prior is used for the nuisance parameter associated with the normalization of the multijet background. The fit is performed on the $m_{Z'}$ distribution and, as a consistency
Figure 2. Ratio of the number of events in the signal region to the number in the sideband region, as a function of the $Z'$ mass, for simulated background QCD multijet events. The left (right) plot involves events with no (at least one) b-tagged subjet. The solid line shows a fit of a second-order polynomial function to the ratio.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>SR 1 b tag</th>
<th>SR 2 b tag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QCD multijet</td>
<td>1227$^{+59}_{-59}$</td>
<td>222$^{+22}_{-22}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SM top quark</td>
<td>81$^{+31}_{-23}$</td>
<td>66$^{+25}_{-18}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total background</td>
<td>1308$^{+67}_{-65}$</td>
<td>288$^{+32}_{-29}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data</td>
<td>1307</td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Number of events in the two signal categories of the analysis. The uncertainties include both statistical and systematic components.

check, on the $H_T$ distribution, obtaining compatible results. It is verified that the scale factor obtained from the fit is not affected by changing the signal hypotheses considered in this analysis. The inclusive normalization factors are 0.093$\pm$0.004 and 0.12$\pm$0.01 for the 1 and 2 b tag event categories, respectively. This normalization is used for plots in section 7. For the extraction of upper cross section limits on signal production, the normalization of the multijet background is determined by the maximum likelihood fit to data described in section 7.

The top quark background is estimated using simulated event samples normalized to the theoretical cross sections, as listed in section 3. The systematic uncertainties that may impact the event rates and the shapes of the $m_{Z'}$ and $m_T$ distributions in simulated events are discussed in section 6. Table 3 shows the expected background yields for the two event categories, along with the observed number of events in data. The uncertainties include both statistical and systematic components; the estimation of the latter is described in section 6. The yields have been normalized to give the observed total numbers of events.

6 Systematic uncertainties

Several sources of systematic uncertainty may impact the simulated signal and the top quark backgrounds. The procedure used to estimate the multijet background is subject
Table 4. Sources of systematic uncertainty, their impact on event rates, their type, and the processes for which they are relevant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Systematic uncertainty</th>
<th>Rate 1 b tag</th>
<th>Rate 2 b tag</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b-tagging efficiency</td>
<td>9–14%</td>
<td>12–17%</td>
<td>rate + shape</td>
<td>t bkg and signal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t-tagging efficiency</td>
<td>8–14%</td>
<td>8–14%</td>
<td>rate + shape</td>
<td>t bkg and signal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W-tagging efficiency</td>
<td>0.1–6%</td>
<td>0.1–6%</td>
<td>rate + shape</td>
<td>t bkg and signal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jet energy scale</td>
<td>0.4–10%</td>
<td>0.1–8%</td>
<td>rate + shape</td>
<td>t bkg and signal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jet energy resolution</td>
<td>0–2%</td>
<td>0–2%</td>
<td>rate + shape</td>
<td>t bkg and signal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated luminosity</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>rate</td>
<td>t bkg and signal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trigger efficiency</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>rate</td>
<td>t bkg and signal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDFs</td>
<td>3–9%</td>
<td>3–8%</td>
<td>rate + shape</td>
<td>t bkg and signal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pileup reweighting</td>
<td>0–3%</td>
<td>0.1–2%</td>
<td>rate + shape</td>
<td>t bkg and signal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\mu_R$, $\mu_F$</td>
<td>3–44%</td>
<td>1–41%</td>
<td>rate + shape</td>
<td>t bkg and signal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sideband corr. (fit unc.)</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>rate + shape</td>
<td>QCD multijet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sideband corr. (fit form)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>rate + shape</td>
<td>QCD multijet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sideband norm.</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>rate</td>
<td>QCD multijet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The energy scale of jets [53] is corrected with dedicated $p_T$- and $\eta$-dependent factors derived for AK4 and AK8 jets. The jet energy corrections for AK8 subjets are the same as for AK4 jets, scaled for the difference in jet area. Systematic uncertainties are derived by varying the jet energy scale within its uncertainty and thus obtaining the shape and normalization impact on the distribution of $m_{Z'}$.

The energy resolution of jets is lower in data than in simulation, and thus a smearing factor is applied to the four-vectors of AK4 jets, AK8 jets, and to the subjets, in simulated events. The smearing factor for subjets is the same as that for AK4 jets. The impact of this uncertainty, calculated by varying the smearing factor within its uncertainty, is negligible compared to that of the other uncertainties.

The discrepancy of the $t$ tagging efficiency between data and simulation is corrected with scale factors derived in a semileptonic $t\bar{t}$ topology using a “tag-and-probe” technique [63, 64]. This procedure selects a pure sample of $t\bar{t}$ events using a tight selection on the leptonically decaying top quark. The sample is then used to measure the efficiency of the $t$ tagging algorithm on the hadronically decaying top quark. The scale factors are derived as a function of the jet $p_T$, along with their respective uncertainties. A similar procedure is used to derive the correction factors for the $W$ tagging algorithm. Jet and subjet $b$ tagging efficiency correction factors for heavy- and light-flavour jets [61] are varied within their uncertainties to derive the impact on shape and normalization in simulated samples.
Dierent choices of the renormalization ($\mu_R$) and factorization ($\mu_F$) scales used to produce the simulated samples induce shape and normalization changes in the $Z'$ boson mass distribution. The impact is assessed by using dedicated simulated top quark and signal events where the $\mu_R$ and $\mu_F$ are both scaled up or down by a factor of 2.

The pileup reweighting uncertainty is evaluated by varying the effective inelastic cross section by 5%. To account for trigger efficiency discrepancies in data and simulation, a 3% rate uncertainty is assigned to the simulated signal and top quark event yields. The uncertainty in the measurement of the integrated luminosity is calculated to be 2.3% [65].

The systematic uncertainty related to the choice of the PDF values is assessed by varying the eigenvectors for the NNPDF 3.0 set used in the simulation. The variations are summed in quadrature to obtain the shape and rate variation due to PDF effects.

The systematic uncertainty in the estimation of the multijet background arises from the sideband shape correction function (weight function) as explained in section 5. When fitting the ratio between the sideband and the signal region, the statistical uncertainties of the simulated samples in the procedure are considered. In addition, a linear functional form for the weight function is tested for comparison, and the observed difference is taken into account as a systematic uncertainty. These uncertainties are propagated through the background estimation procedure to obtain their impact on the shape and normalization of the $m_{Z'}$ distribution. The normalization of the multijet background is determined during the limit setting procedure by allowing it to vary within an uncertainty of 50% in the maximum likelihood fit to data.

The most significant uncertainties are the ones associated with the multijet background fit function, and with the choice of renormalization and factorization scales. Assigning a 50% uncertainty to the multijet background normalization does not significantly affect the results obtained in section 7.

7 Results

The $m_{Z'}$ distributions in the two signal categories are shown in figure 3. The $m_T$ and $H_T$ variables are shown in figure 4. No excess with respect to the expected background is observed.

A template-based shape analysis with the Theta software package [66] is performed, using the $m_{Z'}$ distribution in the two categories, to extract upper cross section limits on a hypothetical signal production. A Bayesian likelihood-based method [27] is used. Expected limit intervals at 95% confidence level (CL) are obtained by performing a large number of pseudo-experiments. The expected background model is varied within the systematic and statistical uncertainties to determine the best fit to the observed data. The modeling of uncertainties in the shapes is performed through cubic-linear template morphing, where the cubic interpolation is used up to one standard deviation and the linear interpolation beyond that [66]. A nuisance parameter is assigned for each systematic uncertainty in the likelihood. For the parameter of interest, i.e. the signal cross section, a uniform prior is used, while log-normal priors are used for the nuisance parameters. The two event categories are fitted simultaneously.
Figure 3. Distribution of the $m_{Z'}$ variable for the signal region with 1 b tag (upper plot) and 2 b tags (lower plot) prior to the fit. The yellow (lighter) distribution represents the multijet background estimated from data, the blue (darker) distribution is the estimated top quark background, and the black markers are the data. The gray bands represent the statistical and systematic uncertainties in the background estimates. The uncertainty $\sigma$ includes the statistical uncertainties in data and backgrounds, and the systematic uncertainties in the estimated backgrounds. The dashed lines represent the distributions for signal hypotheses as indicated in the legend. The signal distributions are each normalized to a cross section of 1 pb. Events lying outside the x-axis range are not considered.
Figure 4. Distributions of the $m_T$ (upper plots) and $H_T$ (lower plots) variables for the 1 b tag (left) and 2 b tag (right) event categories prior to the fit. The gray bands represent the statistical and systematic uncertainties in the background estimates. The uncertainty $\sigma$ includes the statistical uncertainties in data and backgrounds, and the systematic uncertainties in the estimated backgrounds. The dashed lines represent the distributions for signal hypotheses as indicated in the legend. The signal distributions are each normalized to a cross section of 1 pb. Events lying outside the x-axis range are not considered.

To avoid the normalization of the multijet background being affected by the presence of a hypothetical signal, a prior uncertainty of 50% is assigned in the fit of the signal hypothesis, as discussed in section 5. The fit is able to constrain the multijet normalization, primarily with the 1 b tag category, which has more events and is less signal enriched.

Table 5 shows the expected and observed limits on the cross section to produce a $Z'$ boson that decays to $Tt$ for different $Z'$ boson and T quark mass hypotheses. Three different hypotheses for the decay of the T quark are considered: 100% branching fraction
$\mathcal{B}(T \to bW) = 1$

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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>−2σ</td>
<td>−1σ</td>
<td>Median</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500</td>
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<td>0.73</td>
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$\mathcal{B}(T \to tH) = 1$

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$\mathcal{B}(T \to tZ) = 1$

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<td>1500</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 5.** Table of expected and observed limits on the cross section to produce a $Z'$ boson that decays to $Tt$ at 95% CL for the $T \to bW$ (upper), $T \to tH$ (middle), and $T \to tZ$ (lower) signal hypotheses.

The effect of increasing the width of the $Z'$ boson or the T quark to 10% on a single signal configuration has been studied and the impact on the cross section limits is found to be negligible in both cases, because of the detector resolution being bigger than 15%. 

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- 14 -
Figures 5 and 6 show the expected and observed upper cross section limits, respectively, for $Z' \rightarrow Tt$ for different hypotheses of the $Z'$ boson and T quark masses, and the branching fraction of the T quark into bW and tH channels, with $B(T \rightarrow tZ) = (1 - B(T \rightarrow bW, tH))$. Observed cross section limits are in all cases within 2 standard deviations of the expected values.

One-dimensional cross section limits compared to the expectation of the composite Higgs boson model [24], as a function of the resonance mass for $m_T = 1.2$ TeV and T branching fraction to tH/tZ channels of 50/50%, are shown in figure 7 (left). A comparison of the limits to the warped-extra dimension model [22] for T branching fractions to the bW/tH/tZ channels of 50/25/25% is shown on the right-hand side of the same figure. For some values of the mass of the heavy resonance, the resonance width is predicted to be larger than 10% in the benchmark theoretical models. In these cases the simulated samples do not reproduce the behaviour of the theory benchmarks accurately, hence the cross section values are not considered for the comparison and are marked by a dashed line in figure 7. The increase of the total width of the resonance with the increase of its mass is caused by additional decay channels becoming kinematically allowed. The change in slope of the theoretical cross sections around $m_{Z'} = 1.6$ and 2.4 TeV is due to the Tt and TT decay channels respectively becoming kinematically allowed. The comparison with the expectations of theoretical models shows that this search has no sensitivity to the composite Higgs model [24] and some sensitivity to the extra dimensions model [22], however more data is needed to exclude specific scenarios.

8 Summary

A search for a massive spin-1 resonance decaying to a top quark and a vector-like T quark has been performed in the all-jets channel using $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV proton-proton collision data collected by CMS at the LHC. The search uses jet-substructure techniques, involving top quark and W boson tagging algorithms, along with subjet b tagging. The top quark and W boson algorithms are based on the N-subjettiness variables and use the modified mass-drop algorithm to compute the jet mass. The multijet background is estimated in data through a sideband region that is adjusted through simulation-based correction factors. The top quark background is estimated using simulated events.

No excess is observed in data beyond the standard model expectations, and upper limits are set on the production cross sections of hypothetical signals. The cross section limits are compared to the cross sections of a spin-1 resonance in a composite Higgs boson model and a Kaluza-Klein gluon in a warped extra-dimension model, for benchmark values of the model parameters, assuming a T quark mass of 1.2 TeV. Branching fractions of the T quark decay to the tH/tZ channels of 50/50% and to the bW/tH/tZ channels of 50/25/25% are assumed for models with a composite Higgs boson and with a warped extra-dimension, respectively. This search is not sensitive to the composite Higgs model [24] with the analyzed data. In the case of the model with a warped extra-dimension [22], the upper limit obtained on the cross section is just at the predicted level for G* masses in the region of 1.8 TeV. Although limits are not placed on these particular models, more generally a $Z'$ boson decaying to a
Figure 5. Expected cross section limits for $Z' \rightarrow Tt$ for different hypotheses for the $Z'$ boson and $T$ quark masses, and the branching for the $Z'$ boson decay into $bW$ and $tH$ channels, with $B(T \rightarrow tZ) = (1 - B(T \rightarrow bW, tH))$. 
Figure 6. Observed cross section limits for $Z' \rightarrow Tt$ for different hypotheses for the $Z'$ boson and $T$ quark masses, and the branching fraction of the $T$ quark decay into $bW$ and $tH$ channels, with $B(T \rightarrow tZ) = (1 - B(T \rightarrow bW, tH))$. 
Figure 7. One-dimensional cross section limits at 95% CL as a function of the heavy vector resonance mass for $m_T = 1.2$ TeV, assuming branching fractions of the T quark decay to the tH/tZ channels of 50/50% (left) or to the bW/tH/tZ channels of 50/25/25% (right). The solid line is the observed limit, the dotted line is the expected limit, shown with 68% (inner) and 95% (outer) uncertainty bands. In the left plot, the green thick line is the product of the cross section and branching fraction for a heavy spin-1 resonance $p_L^0 \rightarrow Tt$ in a composite Higgs boson model [24]. In the right plot, the blue thick line is the product of the cross section and branching fraction for a heavy gluon $G^* \rightarrow Tt$ in a warped extra-dimension model [22]. The theoretical predictions are shown as dashed lines where the width of the resonance is larger than 10% of its mass.

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Prospects for top-prime quark discovery at the LHC signals from warped extra dimensions

Finding Topcolor assisted technicolor

New A large mass hierarchy from a small extra dimension

An alternative to compactification

A large mass hierarchy from a small extra dimension

New

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The CMS collaboration

Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia
A.M. Sirunyan, A. Tumasyan

Institut für Hochenergiephysik, Wien, Austria
W. Adam, E. Asilar, T. Bergauer, J. Brandstetter, E. Brondolin, M. Dragicevic, J. Erö, M. Flechl, M. Friedl, R. Frühwirth\textsuperscript{1}, V.M. Ghete, C. Hartl, N. Hörmann, J. Hrubec, M. Jeitler\textsuperscript{1}, A. König, I. Krätschmer, D. Liko, T. Matsushita, I. Mikulec, D. Rabady, N. Rad, B. Rahbaran, H. Rohringer, J. Schieck\textsuperscript{1}, J. Strauss, W. Waltenberger, C.-E. Wulz\textsuperscript{1}

Institute for Nuclear Problems, Minsk, Belarus
O. Dvornikov, V. Makarenko, V. Mossolov, J. Suarez Gonzalez, V. Zyakunov

National Centre for Particle and High Energy Physics, Minsk, Belarus
N. Shumeiko

Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium

Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

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

Université de Mons, Mons, Belgium
N. Beliy

Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Universidade Estadual Paulista, Universidade Federal do ABC, São Paulo, Brazil

Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy, Sofia, Bulgaria
A. Aleksandrov, R. Hadjiiska, P. Iaydjiev, M. Rodozov, S. Stoykova, G. Sultanov, M. Vutova

University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria
A. Dimitrov, I. Glushkov, L. Litov, B. Pavlov, P. Petkov

Beihang University, Beijing, China
W. Fang

Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing, China

State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, Peking University, Beijing, China
Y. Ban, G. Chen, Q. Li, S. Liu, Y. Mao, S.J. Qian, D. Wang, Z. Xu

Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia

University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, Split, Croatia
N. Godinovic, D. Lelas, I. Puljak, P.M. Ribeiro Cipriano, T. Sculac

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

Institute Rudjer Boskovic, Zagreb, Croatia
V. Brigljevic, D. Ferencek, K. Kadija, B. Mesic, T. Susa

University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus
Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
M. Finger, M. Finger Jr.

Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Quito, Ecuador
E. Carrera Jarrin

Academy of Scientific Research and Technology of the Arab Republic of Egypt,
Egyptian Network of High Energy Physics, Cairo, Egypt
A. Ellithi Kamel, M.A. Mahmoud, A. Radi

National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia
M. Kadastik, L. Perrini, M. Raidal, A. Tiko, C. Veelken

Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland
P. Eerola, J. Pekkanen, M. Voutilainen

Helsinki Institute of Physics, Helsinki, Finland

Lappeenranta University of Technology, Lappeenranta, Finland
J. Talvitie, T. Tuuva

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

Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, Ecole Polytechnique, IN2P3-CNRS, Palaiseau, France

Institut Pluridisciplinaire Hubert Curien (IPHC), Université de Strasbourg, CNRS-IN2P3

Centre de Calcul de l’Institut National de Physique Nucleaire et de Physique des Particules, CNRS/IN2P3, Villeurbanne, France
S. Gadrat

Université de Lyon, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, CNRS-IN2P3, Institut de Physique Nucléaire de Lyon, Villeurbanne, France
B. Ille, F. Lagarde, I.B. Laktineh, L. Mirabito, A.L. Pequegnot, S. Perries, A. Popov\textsuperscript{15}, V. Sordini, M. Vander Donckt, P. Verdier, S. Viret

Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi, Georgia
A. Khvedelidze

Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
Z. Tsamalaidze

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

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

RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut B, Aachen, Germany
V. Cherepanov, G. Flügge, B. Kargoll, T. Kress, A. Künsken, J. Lingemann, T. Müller, A. Neehrkon, A. Nowack, C. Pistone, O. Pooth, A. Stahl\textsuperscript{16}

Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany

University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

Institut für Experimentelle Kernphysik, Karlsruhe, Germany
M. Akbiyik, C. Barth, S. Baur, C. Baus, J. Berger, E. Butz, R. Caspart, T. Chwalek, F. Colombo, W. De Boer, A. Dierlamm, S. Fink, B. Freund, R. Friese, M. Giffels, A. Gilbert,
Institute of Nuclear and Particle Physics (INPP), NCSR Demokritos, Aghia Paraskevi, Greece

G. Anagnostou, G. Daskalakis, T. Geralis, V.A. Giakoumopoulou, A. Kyriakis, D. Loukas, I. Topsis-Giotis

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece

S. Kesisoglou, A. Panagiotou, N. Saoulidou, E. Tziaferi

University of Ioánnina, Ioánnina, Greece

I. Evangelou, G. Flouris, C. Foudas, P. Kokkas, N. Loukas, N. Manthos, I. Papadopoulos, E. Paradas

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

N. Filipovic, G. Pasztor

Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary


Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary

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

Institute of Physics, University of Debrecen

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

Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

J.R. Komaragiri

National Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhubaneswar, India


Panjab University, Chandigarh, India


University of Delhi, Delhi, India

Ashok Kumar, A. Bhardwaj, B.C. Choudhary, R.B. Garg, S. Keshri, S. Malhotra, M. Naimuddin, K. Ranjan, R. Sharma, V. Sharma

Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, India

Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Madras, India
P.K. Behera

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, India
R. Chudasama, D. Dutta, V. Jha, V. Kumar, A.K. Mohanty16, P.K. Netrakanti, L.M. Pant, P. Shukla, A. Topkar

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research-A, Mumbai, India

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research-B, Mumbai, India

Tata Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, India
S. Chauhan, S. Dube, V. Hegde, A. Kapoor, K. Kothekar, S. Pandey, A. Rane, S. Sharma

Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences (IPM), Tehran, Iran
S. Chenarani28, E. Eskandari Tadavani, S.M. Etesami28, M. Khakzad, M. Mohammadi Najafabadi, M. Naseri, S. Paktinat Mehdiabadi29, F. Rezaei Hosseinabadi, B. Safarzadeh30, M. Zeinali

University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland
M. Felcini, M. Grunewald

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

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

INFN Sezione di Catania a, Università di Catania b, Catania, Italy
S. Albergoba, S. Costaab, A. Di Mattia, F. Giordanoab, R. Potenzaab, A. Tricomiab, C. Tuveab

INFN Sezione di Firenze a, Università di Firenze b, Firenze, Italy
G. Barbagliaa, V. Ciullia, C. Civinina, R. D’Alessandroab, E. Focardiab, P. Lenzia, M. Meschini, S. Paolettaa, L. Russoa, b, G. Sguazzona, D. Stroma, L. Viliania, b, N. Tosiab, R. Vendittia, P. Verwilligena

INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy
L. Benussi, S. Bianco, F. Fabbri, D. Piccolo, F. Primavera16
INFN Sezione di Genova \textsuperscript{a}, Università di Genova \textsuperscript{b}, Genova, Italy
V. Calvelli\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, F. Ferro\textsuperscript{a}, M.R. Monge\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, E. Robutti\textsuperscript{a}, S. Tosi\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}

INFN Sezione di Milano-Bicocca \textsuperscript{a}, Università di Milano-Bicocca \textsuperscript{b}, Milano, Italy
L. Brianza\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b},\textit{16}}, F. Brivio\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, V. Ciriolo, M.E. Dinardo\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, S. Fiorendi\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b},\textit{16}}, S. Gennai\textsuperscript{a}, A. Ghezzi\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, P. Govoni\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, M. Malberti\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, S. Malvezzi\textsuperscript{a}, R.A. Manzoni\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, D. Menasce\textsuperscript{a}, L. Moroni\textsuperscript{a}, M. Paganoni\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, D. Pedrini\textsuperscript{a}, S. Pigazzini\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, S. Ragazzi\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, T. Tabarelli de Fatis\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}

INFN Sezione di Napoli \textsuperscript{a}, Università di Napoli ‘Federico II’ \textsuperscript{b}, Napoli, Italy, Università della Basilicata \textsuperscript{c}, Potenza, Italy, Università G. Marconi \textsuperscript{d}, Roma, Italy
S. Buontempo\textsuperscript{a}, N. Cavallo\textsuperscript{a,\textit{c}}, G. De Nardo, S. Di Guida\textsuperscript{a,\textit{d},\textit{16}}, M. Esposito\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, F. Fabozzi\textsuperscript{a,\textit{c}}, F. Fienga\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, A.O.M. Iorio\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, G. Lanza\textsuperscript{a}, L. Lista\textsuperscript{a}, S. Meola\textsuperscript{a,\textit{d},\textit{16}}, P. Paolucci\textsuperscript{a,\textit{16}}, C. Sciacca\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, F. Thyssen\textsuperscript{a}

INFN Sezione di Pavia \textsuperscript{a}, Università di Pavia \textsuperscript{b}, Padova, Italy, Università di Trento \textsuperscript{c}, Trento, Italy
P. Azzi\textsuperscript{a,\textit{16}}, N. Bacchetta\textsuperscript{a}, L. Benato\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, D. Bisello\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, A. Boletti\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, R. Carlin\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, A. Carvalho Antunes De Oliveira\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, P. Checchia\textsuperscript{a}, M. Dall’Osso\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, P. De Castro Manzano\textsuperscript{a}, T. Dorigo\textsuperscript{a}, U. Dosselli\textsuperscript{a}, F. Gasparini\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, U. Gasparini\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, A. Gozzelino\textsuperscript{a}, S. Lacaprara\textsuperscript{a}, M. Margoni\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, A.T. Meneguzzo\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, J. Pazzini\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, N. Pozzobon\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, P. Ronchese\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, F. Simonetto\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, E. Torassa\textsuperscript{a}, M. Zanetti\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, P. Zotto\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, G. Zumerle\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}

INFN Sezione di Perugia \textsuperscript{a}, Università di Perugia \textsuperscript{b}, Perugia, Italy
L. Alunni Solestizi\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, G.M. Bilei\textsuperscript{a}, D. Ciangottini\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, L. Fan\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, P. Lariccia\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, R. Leonardi\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, G. Mantovani\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, V. Mariani\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, M. Menichelli\textsuperscript{a}, A. Saha\textsuperscript{a}, A. Santocchia\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}

INFN Sezione di Pisa \textsuperscript{a}, Università di Pisa \textsuperscript{b}, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa \textsuperscript{c}, Pisa, Italy
K. Androsov\textsuperscript{a,\textit{31}}, P. Azzurri\textsuperscript{a,\textit{16}}, G. Bagliesi\textsuperscript{a}, J. Bernardini\textsuperscript{a}, T. Boccali\textsuperscript{a}, R. Castaldi\textsuperscript{a}, M.A. Ciocci\textsuperscript{a,\textit{31}}, R. Dell’Orso\textsuperscript{a}, S. Donato\textsuperscript{a,\textit{c}}, G. Fedi, A. Giassi\textsuperscript{a}, M.T. Grippo\textsuperscript{a,\textit{31}}, F. Ligabue\textsuperscript{a,\textit{c}}, T. Lomtadze\textsuperscript{a}, L. Martini\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, A. Messineo\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, F. Palla\textsuperscript{a}, A. Rizzare\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, A. Savoy-Navarro\textsuperscript{a,\textit{32}}, P. Spagnolo\textsuperscript{a}, R. Tenchini\textsuperscript{a}, G. Tonelli\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, A. Venturi\textsuperscript{a}, P.G. Verdini\textsuperscript{a}

INFN Sezione di Roma \textsuperscript{a}, Università di Roma \textsuperscript{b}, Roma, Italy
L. Barone\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, F. Cavallari\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, M. Cipriani\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, D. Del Re\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b},\textit{16}}, M. Diemoz\textsuperscript{a}, S. Gelli\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, E. Longo\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, F. Margaroli\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, B. Marzocchia\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, P. Meridiani\textsuperscript{a}, G. Organtini\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, R. Paramatti\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, F. Preiato\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, S. Rahatlou\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}, C. Rovelli\textsuperscript{a}, F. Santanastasio\textsuperscript{a,\textit{b}}
INFN Sezione di Torino $^a$, Università di Torino $^b$, Torino, Italy, Università del Piemonte Orientale $^c$, Novara, Italy
N. Amapane$^{a,b}$, R. Arcidiacono$^{a,c,16}$, S. Argiro$^{a,b}$, M. Arneodo$^{a,c}$, N. Bartosik$^a$, R. Bellan$^{a,b}$, C. Biino$^a$, N. Cartiglia$^a$, F. Cenna$^{a,b}$, M. Costa$^{a,b}$, R. Covarelli$^{a,b}$, A. Degano$^{a,b}$, N. Demaria$^a$, L. Finco$^{a,b}$, B. Kiani$^{a,b}$, C. Mariotti$^a$, S. Maselli$^a$, E. Migliore$^{a,b}$, V. Monaco$^{a,b}$, E. Monteil$^{a,b}$, M. Monteno$^a$, M.M. Obertino$^{a,b}$, L. Pacher$^{a,b}$, N. Pastrone$^a$, M. Pelliccioni$^a$, G.L. Pinna Angioni$^{a,b}$, F. Ravera$^{a,b}$, A. Romero$^{a,b}$, M. Ruspa$^{a,c}$, R. Sacchi$^{a,b}$, K. Shchelina$^{a,b}$, V. Sola$^a$, A. Solano$^{a,b}$, A. Staiano$^a$, P. Traczyk$^{a,b}$

INFN Sezione di Trieste $^a$, Università di Trieste $^b$, Trieste, Italy
S. Belforte$^a$, M. Casarsa$^a$, F. Cossutti$^a$, G. Della Ricca$^{a,b}$, A. Zanetti$^a$

Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea

Chonbuk National University, Jeonju, Korea
A. Lee

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

Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea
J.A. Brochero Cifuentes, T.J. Kim

Korea University, Seoul, Korea

Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea

University of Seoul, Seoul, Korea

Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, Korea
Y. Choi, J. Goh, C. Hwang, J. Lee, I. Yu

Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania
V. Dudenas, A. Juodagalvis, J. Vaitkus

National Centre for Particle Physics, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia
V. Epshteyn, V. Gavrilov, N. Lychkovskaya, V. Popov, I. Pozdnyakov, G. Safronov, A. Spiridonov, M. Toms, E. Vlasov, A. Zhokin

Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Moscow, Russia
T. Aushev, A. Bylinkin

National Research Nuclear University 'Moscow Engineering Physics Institute' (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia
R. Chistov, M. Danilov, S. Polikarpov

P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia
V. Andreev, M. Azarkin, I. Dremin, M. Kirakosyan, A. Leonidov, A. Terkulov

Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
A. Baskakov, A. Belyaev, E. Boos, V. Bunichev, M. Dubinin, L. Dudko, V. Klyukhin, O. Kodolova, I. Lokhtin, I. Miagkov, S. Obraztsov, M.Perfilov, S. Petrushanko, V. Savrin, A. Snigirev

Novosibirsk State University (NSU), Novosibirsk, Russia
V. Blinov, Y. Skovpen, D. Shtol

State Research Center of Russian Federation, Institute for High Energy Physics, Protvino, Russia

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia
P. Adzic, P. Cirkovic, D. Devetak, M. Dordevic, J. Milosevic, V. Rekovic

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

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain
J.F. de Trocóniz, M. Missiroli, D. Moran

Universidad de Oviedo, Oviedo, Spain
National Taiwan University (NTU), Taipei, Taiwan

Chulalongkorn University, Faculty of Science, Department of Physics, Bangkok, Thailand
B. Asavapibhop, G. Singh, N. Srimanobhas, N. Suwonjandee

Cukurova University - Physics Department, Science and Art Faculty

Middle East Technical University, Physics Department, Ankara, Turkey
B. Bilin, S. Bilmis, B. Isildak, G. Karapinar, M. Yalvac, M. Zeyrek

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey
E. Gülmez, M. Kaya, O. Kaya, E.A. Yetkin, T. Yetkin

Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey
A. Cakir, K. Cankocak, S. Sen

Institute for Scintillation Materials of National Academy of Science of Ukraine, Kharkov, Ukraine
B. Grynyov

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

University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom

Imperial College, London, United Kingdom
Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, U.S.A.

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Chicago, U.S.A.

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, U.S.A.

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U.S.A.

The University of Kansas, Lawrence, U.S.A.

Kansas State University, Manhattan, U.S.A.
A. Ivanov, K. Kaadze, Y. Maravin, A. Mohammadi, L.K. Saini, N. Skhirtladze, S. Toda

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, U.S.A.
F. Rebassoo, D. Wright

University of Maryland, College Park, U.S.A.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, U.S.A.

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, U.S.A.

University of Mississippi, Oxford, U.S.A.
J.G. Acosta, S. Oliveros
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, U.S.A.

State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, U.S.A.

Northeastern University, Boston, U.S.A.

Northwestern University, Evanston, U.S.A.

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, U.S.A.

The Ohio State University, Columbus, U.S.A.

Princeton University, Princeton, U.S.A.

University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, U.S.A.
S. Malik

Purdue University, West Lafayette, U.S.A.

Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, U.S.A.
N. Parashar, J. Stupak

Rice University, Houston, U.S.A.

University of Rochester, Rochester, U.S.A.
B. Betchart, A. Bodek, P. de Barbaro, R. Demina, Y.t. Duh, T. Ferbel, M. Galanti, A. Garcia-Bellido, J. Han, O. Hindrichs, A. Khukhunaishvili, K.H. Lo, P. Tan, M. Verzetti
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Piscataway, U.S.A.
A. Agapitos, J.P. Chou, Y. Gershtein, T.A. Gómez Espinosa, E. Halkiadakis, M. Heindl, 
E. Hughes, S. Kaplan, R. Kunnawalkam Elayavalli, S. Kyriacou, A. Lath, K. Nash, 
M. Osherson, H. Saka, S. Salur, S. Schnetzer, D. Sheffield, S. Somalwar, R. Stone, 
S. Thomas, P. Thomassen, M. Walker

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, U.S.A.
A.G. Delannoy, M. Foerster, J. Heideman, G. Riley, K. Rose, S. Spanier, K. Thapa

Texas A&M University, College Station, U.S.A.
O. Bouhali\textsuperscript{1}, A. Celik, M. Dalchenko, M. De Mattia, A. Delgado, S. Dildick, R. Eusebi, 
J. Gilmore, T. Huang, E. Juska, T. Kamon\textsuperscript{2}, R. Mueller, Y. Pakhotin, R. Patel, A. Perloff, 
L. Perniè, D. Rathjens, A. Safonov, A. Tatarinov, K.A. Ulmer

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, U.S.A.
N. Akchurin, J. Damgov, F. De Guio, C. Dragoiu, P.R. Dudero, J. Fuulkner, E. Gurpinar, 

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, U.S.A.
S. Greene, A. Gurrola, R. Janjam, W. Johns, C. Maguire, A. Melo, H. Ni, P. Sheldon, 
S. Tuo, J. Velkovska, Q. Xu

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, U.S.A.
M.W. Arenton, P. Barria, B. Cox, J. Goodell, R. Hirosky, A. Ledovskoy, H. Li, C. Neu, 
T. Sinthuprasith, X. Sun, Y. Wang, E. Wolfe, F. Xia

Wayne State University, Detroit, U.S.A.
C. Clarke, R. Harr, P.E. Karchin, J. Sturdy

University of Wisconsin - Madison, Madison, WI, U.S.A.
D.A. Belknap, J. Buchanan, C. Caillol, S. Dasu, L. Dodd, S. Duric, B. Gomber, M. Grothe, 
M. Herndon, A. Hervé, P. Klabbers, A. Lanaro, A. Levine, K. Long, R. Loveless, T. Perry, 

\(\dagger\): Deceased
1: Also at Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria
2: Also at State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, Peking University, Beijing, 
   China
3: Also at Institut Pluridisciplinaire Hubert Curien (IPHC), Université de Strasbourg, 
   CNRS/IN2P3, Strasbourg, France
4: Also at Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, Brazil
5: Also at Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Pelotas, Brazil
6: Also at Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium
7: Also at Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany
8: Also at Universidad de Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia
9: Also at Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia
10: Now at Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt

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11: Also at Fayoum University, El-Fayoum, Egypt
12: Now at British University in Egypt, Cairo, Egypt
13: Now at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt
14: Also at Université de Haute Alsace, Mulhouse, France
15: Also at Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
16: Also at CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland
17: Also at RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut A, Aachen, Germany
18: Also at University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany
19: Also at Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus, Germany
20: Also at Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary
21: Also at MTA-ELTE Lendület CMS Particle and Nuclear Physics Group, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary
22: Also at Institute of Physics, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary
23: Also at Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar, India
24: Also at University of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India
25: Also at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal, India
26: Also at Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, India
27: Also at University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka
28: Also at Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran
29: Also at Yazd University, Yazd, Iran
30: Also at Plasma Physics Research Center, Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran
31: Also at Università degli Studi di Siena, Siena, Italy
32: Also at Purdue University, West Lafayette, U.S.A.
33: Also at International Islamic University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
34: Also at Malaysian Nuclear Agency, MOSTI, Kajang, Malaysia
35: Also at Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Mexico city, Mexico
36: Also at Warsaw University of Technology, Institute of Electronic Systems, Warsaw, Poland
37: Also at Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia
38: Now at National Research Nuclear University 'Moscow Engineering Physics Institute' (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia
39: Also at St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University, St. Petersburg, Russia
40: Also at University of Florida, Gainesville, U.S.A.
41: Also at P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia
42: Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, U.S.A.
43: Also at Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, Novosibirsk, Russia
44: Also at Faculty of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
45: Also at INFN Sezione di Roma; Università di Roma, Roma, Italy
46: Also at University of Belgrade, Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia
47: Also at Scuola Normale e Sezione dell'INFN, Pisa, Italy
48: Also at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece
49: Also at Riga Technical University, Riga, Latvia
50: Also at Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia
51: Also at Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics, Bern, Switzerland
52: Also at Adiyaman University, Adiyaman, Turkey
53: Also at Istanbul Aydin University, Istanbul, Turkey
54: Also at Mersin University, Mersin, Turkey
55: Also at Cag University, Mersin, Turkey
56: Also at Piri Reis University, Istanbul, Turkey
57: Also at Gaziosmanpasa University, Tokat, Turkey
58: Also at Ozyegin University, Istanbul, Turkey
59: Also at Izmir Institute of Technology, Izmir, Turkey
60: Also at Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey
61: Also at Kafkas University, Kars, Turkey
62: Also at Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey
63: Also at Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey
64: Also at Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey
65: Also at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
66: Also at School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom
67: Also at Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, La Laguna, Spain
68: Also at Utah Valley University, Orem, U.S.A.
69: Also at Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, U.S.A.
70: Also at Erzincan University, Erzincan, Turkey
71: Also at Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey
72: Also at Texas A&M University at Qatar, Doha, Qatar
73: Also at Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea