Combined Measurement of the Higgs Boson Mass from the $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ and $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$ Decay Channels with the ATLAS Detector Using $\sqrt{s} = 7, 8$, and 13 TeV $pp$ Collision Data

G. Aad et al. (ATLAS Collaboration)

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A measurement of the mass of the Higgs boson combining the $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$ and $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ decay channels is presented. The result is based on 140 fb$^{-1}$ of proton-proton collision data collected by the ATLAS detector during LHC run 2 at a center-of-mass energy of 13 TeV combined with the run 1 ATLAS mass measurement, performed at center-of-mass energies of 7 and 8 TeV, yielding a Higgs boson mass of $125.11 \pm 0.09\text{(stat)} \pm 0.06\text{(syst)} = 125.11 \pm 0.11$ GeV. This corresponds to a 0.09% precision achieved on this fundamental parameter of the Standard Model of particle physics.

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The discovery of the Higgs boson in proton-proton ($pp$) collisions at the CERN LHC by the ATLAS and CMS Collaborations [1,2] with data collected at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 8 TeV (run 1) was a major step toward understanding the electroweak symmetry-breaking mechanism. Gauge theories require, in fact, that gauge bosons be massless, in apparent contradiction with observations. In this context, the seminal work of Englert and Brout [3], Higgs [4–6], and Guralnik, Hagen, and Kibble [7,8] has provided a consistent mechanism for the generation of gauge boson masses. The Glashow-Weinberg-Salam theory extended the seminal work of Englert and Brout [3], Higgs [4–6], and Guralnik, Hagen, and Kibble [7,8] to include a Higgs field, which couples to fermions, providing them with a mass that would otherwise be absent. This forms a major component of the Standard Model (SM) of particle physics. A salient prediction of the SM is the presence of a Higgs boson, whose mass is not predicted by the theory and needs to be estimated experimentally. Since the Higgs boson discovery, thanks to the luminosity accumulated at the LHC between 2015 and 2018 (run 2) and the increased center-of-mass energy at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV, the focus has shifted to the precise measurements of Higgs boson properties [12,13]. The couplings of the Higgs boson to other elementary particles are predicted in the SM once the Higgs boson mass $m_H$ is known. This motivates its precise measurement through decay channels that can be fully reconstructed and with the best mass resolution.

The $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ and $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$ decays are the most suitable processes to measure $m_H$ at the LHC due to their excellent mass resolution, which produce a clear mass peak above a continuum background [1,2]. The Higgs boson mass $m_H$ was measured by ATLAS and CMS in the $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ and $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$ channels using the full run 1 dataset, and all measurements by the two experiments were combined resulting in a $m_H$ value of $125.09 \pm 0.24$ GeV [14]. More recently, the CMS Collaboration has measured $m_H$ in the same decay channels using 35.9 fb$^{-1}$ of 13 TeV $pp$ run 2 collision data. The combination of the two CMS run 2 measurements with their run 1 results yielded a $m_H$ value of $125.38 \pm 0.14$ GeV [15]. This Letter presents a measurement of $m_H$ combining the $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ [16] and $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$ [17] decay channels. The result is based on 140 fb$^{-1}$ of proton-proton collision data collected by the ATLAS detector [18] during the LHC run 2 at a center-of-mass energy of 13 TeV and updates and supersedes that based on the same final states and a partial run 2 dataset corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 36.1 fb$^{-1}$ [19]. An extensive software suite [20] is used in the reconstruction and analysis of real and simulated data, in detector operations, and in the trigger and data acquisition systems of the experiment. The combined measurements profit from the increased dataset and from significantly improved calibrations of the electron and photon energy [16,21] and of the muon momentum [17,22].

The mass measurement reported in this Letter is performed using the profile likelihood ratio [23,24] defined as

$$\Lambda(m_H) = \mathcal{L}(m_H, \hat{\theta}(m_H))/\mathcal{L}(\hat{m}_H, \hat{\theta})$$

where $\hat{\theta}(m_H)$ corresponds to the values of the NP that maximize the likelihood $\mathcal{L}(m_H, \theta)$, while $\hat{\theta}$ are the values of the parameter of interest and nuisance parameters (NP), respectively, that maximize the likelihood $\mathcal{L}(m_H, \theta)$.
while the signal and background normalizations in the various channels entering the fit are treated as free parameters. The confidence intervals are obtained assuming the asymptotic distribution of the $-2 \ln L(m_H)$ test statistic [24]. The statistical uncertainty on $m_H$ is estimated by fixing all the NP that are associated with systematic uncertainties to their best-fit values and leaving all the remaining parameters unconstrained. The total systematic uncertainty, whose squared value is evaluated as the difference between the squares of the total uncertainty and the statistical uncertainty, can be decomposed into categories representing distinct sources of uncertainty by setting all relevant subsets of NP to their best-fit values.

The full description of the run 2 mass measurement in the $H \to \gamma\gamma$ channel is given in Ref. [16]. A description of the key aspects of this measurement is summarized here. The $H \to \gamma\gamma$ decay is reconstructed by requiring two energetic photons fulfilling strict identification and isolation criteria. The invariant mass $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ distribution of the selected photon pairs exhibits a peak near $m_H$, arising from resonant Higgs boson decays, over a smoothly falling distribution from background processes mainly due to nonresonant diphoton production. The value of $m_H$ is determined from the position of the peak in data through a profile-likelihood fit to the $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ distribution. Simulated signal and background event samples are used to optimize the analysis criteria, to choose the signal and background $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ models used in the fit, and to estimate some of the systematic uncertainties on $m_H$. To increase the sensitivity of the measurement, the selected events are classified into 14 mutually exclusive categories with different diphoton invariant mass resolutions and signal-to-background ratios, which are analyzed simultaneously. The normalization factor for each category is independent and fitted to the data. The $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ resolution ranges from about 1.1 to 2.0 GeV, depending on the category. The signal model consists of a double-sided Crystal Ball probability density function [25], with the mean and standard deviation of its Gaussian core parametrized as a function of $m_H$ in each category using simulated signal events generated at different $m_H$ hypotheses. Compared with the mass result reported in Ref. [19], the $H \to \gamma\gamma$ mass measurement used in this combination and reported in Ref. [16] profits from an increased data sample, a new photon reconstruction algorithm with better energy resolution [26], an improved estimation of the photon energy scale with significantly reduced uncertainties [21], and an optimized event classification strategy.

Uncertainties for photons converting into electron-positron pairs before reaching the electromagnetic calorimeter, which are experimentally similar to electrons, are only moderately improved by the updated calibrations at energies typically observed in the $H \to \gamma\gamma$ decay (e.g., $E_T \sim 60$ GeV). For unconverted photons, the energy calibration is improved by typically 30% in the central part of the calorimeter ($|\eta| < 1.37$) and up to a factor 2 in the end cap region ($1.51 \leq |\eta| < 2.37$). The reduction of the uncertainties on the photon energy scale arises from an improved understanding of the difference in data and simulation of the inputs to the photon energy scale regression and of the introduction of transverse energy ($E_T$) dependent in situ scales derived from $Z \to e^+e^-$ events, that reduce the calibration extrapolation uncertainties from the $Z$ boson mass to the Higgs mass and from electrons to photons [21]. The measured mass of the Higgs boson in the $H \to \gamma\gamma$ final state using the full run 2 dataset is $m_H = 125.17 \pm 0.11$ (stat) $\pm 0.09$ (syst) $= 125.17 \pm 0.14$ GeV [16]. The dominant sources of systematic uncertainties on the measurement are associated to the $Z \to e^+e^-$ in situ scale (59 MeV), the residual $E_T$-dependent electron energy scale calibration (44 MeV), and the calibration extrapolation from electrons to photons (30 MeV) [16]. The effect of the interference between the $H \to \gamma\gamma$ signal and the $\gamma\gamma$ continuous background [27] is evaluated to have an impact on the determination of $m_H$ of approximately 26 MeV. The full effect is accounted as a systematic uncertainty on the quoted result, and no shift of the mass value is applied. A combination with the measurement of $m_H$ using the run 1 dataset [14], $m_H = 126.02 \pm 0.43$(stat) $\pm 0.27$(syst) $= 126.02 \pm 0.51$ GeV, is performed. In this combination, only the $E_T$-independent component of the uncertainty associated to the in situ scale derived from $Z \to e^+e^-$ events, the resolution uncertainties, and the theoretical uncertainties related to the various Higgs production modes are considered as correlated between run 1 and run 2. The combined measurement of $m_H$ using run 1 and run 2 datasets in the $H \to \gamma\gamma$ channels is $m_H = 125.22 \pm 0.11$(stat) $\pm 0.09$(syst) $= 125.22 \pm 0.14$ GeV.

The full description of the run 2 mass measurement in the $H \to ZZ^* \to 4\ell$ channel is given in Ref. [17]. A description of the key aspects of this measurement is summarized here. The $H \to ZZ^* \to 4\ell$ decay is reconstructed by requiring two pairs of same-flavor opposite-sign isolated leptons ($\ell^+ = e, \mu$) in the final state. The pair with the invariant mass closer to that of the $Z$ boson mass is defined as the leading dilepton pair, while the remaining one is referred to as the subleading dilepton pair. The selected quadruplets are separated into four subchannels according to the flavor of the leading and subleading dilepton pairs ($4\mu, 2e2\mu, 2\mu2e, 4e$). A neural-network-based classifier is employed to discriminate between the Higgs boson signal and the dominant $ZZ^* \to 4\ell$ background. The $m_H$ measurement is performed with a simultaneous unbinned maximum likelihood fit of the reconstructed invariant mass of the four-lepton system, $m_{4\ell}$, in the four subchannels. The $m_{4\ell}$ resolution ranges from about 1.5 GeV ($4\mu$ and $2e2\mu$ subchannels) to about 2.1 GeV ($2\mu2e$ and $4e$ subchannels). The signal model consists of a double-sided Crystal Ball probability density function, with the mean of its Gaussian core parametrized
as a function of \( m_H \) and the standard deviation expressed as a function of the predicted event-level resolution. The signal and background normalization for each of the four subchannels are free parameters in the fit. Compared with the measurement reported in Ref. [19], the \( H \rightarrow ZZ' \rightarrow 4\ell \) used in this combination and reported in Ref. [17] profits from an increased data sample, a new high-precision muon momentum scale calibration [22], the neural-network-based classifier for the signal versus background discrimination, and the inclusion of the event-by-event invariant mass resolution in the analytical model used to fit the collision data. The measured mass of the Higgs boson in the \( H \rightarrow ZZ' \rightarrow 4\ell \) final state using the full run 2 dataset is \( m_H = 124.99 \pm 0.18 \) (stat) \( \pm 0.04 \) (syst) = 124.99 \pm 0.19 \text{ GeV} \).

The dominant sources of systematic uncertainty on the measurement are the uncertainties in the muon momentum scale, resolution and sagitta bias correction (28 MeV), and the electron energy scale [26] (19 MeV). A combination with the measurement of \( m_H \) using the run 1 dataset [14], \( m_H = 124.51 \pm 0.52 \) (stat) \( \pm 0.04 \) (syst) = 124.51 \pm 0.52 \text{ GeV} \), has been performed. In this combination, only the uncertainties on the electron calibration were considered correlated, while the muon calibration systematic uncertainty is uncorrelated between the two measurements due to improved and independent techniques in the muon momentum scale calibration. The combined measurement of \( m_H \) performed with run 1 and run 2 datasets in the \( H \rightarrow ZZ' \rightarrow 4\ell \) channel is \( m_H = 124.94 \pm 0.17 \) (stat) \( \pm 0.03 \) (syst) = 124.94 \pm 0.18 \text{ GeV} \).

In contrast, the combined mass measurement in the \( H \rightarrow ZZ' \rightarrow 4\ell \) channel [17] is primarily dominated by the statistical uncertainty (170 MeV), while the systematic uncertainty, mainly related the muon momentum scale calibration, has a minor impact (30 MeV) on the measurement. The differences between the two channels can be traced to the distinct decay branching ratios, final state reconstruction efficiencies, background levels, and the resulting signal-to-background ratios in the two channels.

A detailed comparison of the two channels, qualitatively similar to those presented here, is given in Ref. [28].

In the \( H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma \) and \( H \rightarrow ZZ' \rightarrow 4\ell \) channels combination, the correlations between systematic uncertainties in the two measurements are accounted for in the profile likelihood function by using the same constraint for each of the correlated NP. All potential correlations between measurements and data-taking periods are thoroughly examined. Because of substantial variations in the calibration of electrons, photons, and muons, most correlations are small. If applicable, these correlations are incorporated following the approach that yields the most conservative result. In the combination of the run 1 and run 2 measurements of the \( H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma \) and \( H \rightarrow ZZ' \rightarrow 4\ell \) individual channels, the correlation of the experimental systematic uncertainties follows what was done in Refs. [16,17], respectively. The correlation scheme between the run 1 \( H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma \) and \( H \rightarrow ZZ' \rightarrow 4\ell \) measurements is unchanged relative to the published run 1 combination [14]. The choice of correlation model between the run 2 \( H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma \) and \( H \rightarrow ZZ' \rightarrow 4\ell \) measurements reflects the improvements in the photon calibration adopted by the \( H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma \) analysis not being mirrored in the calibration of the electrons used in the \( H \rightarrow ZZ' \rightarrow 4\ell \) analysis.

FIG. 1. Value of \(-2 \ln \Lambda\) as a function of \( m_H \) for (left) \( H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma \) and \( H \rightarrow ZZ' \rightarrow 4\ell \) channels and their combination (magenta, cyan, and green, respectively) using run 2 data only and for (right) run 1, run 2, and their combination (red, green, and black, respectively). The dashed lines show the statistical component of the uncertainty. The 1\sigma (2\sigma) confidence interval is indicated by the intersections of the horizontal line at 1 (4) with the log-likelihood curves.
only the electron and photon resolution systematic uncertainties and those associated with the $E_T$-independent component of the electron and photon in situ energy scale are considered as correlated. Other sources of systematic uncertainties correlated between the two channels are the theory uncertainties on the prediction of the various Higgs production modes, the modeling of additional (pileup) $pp$ collisions, and the uncertainty on the integrated luminosity. The choice of correlation model is also tested by using different approaches (e.g., correlating the muon calibration systematic uncertainties in run 1 and run 2, correlating all sources of photon and electron calibration systematic uncertainties between the $H \to \gamma \gamma$ and $H \to ZZ^* \to 4\ell$ channels) and is shown to have negligible impact on the result. Signal yield normalizations are treated as independent free parameters in the fit to minimize model-dependent assumptions in the measurement of $m_H$.

The combined value measured using run 2 data is $m_H = 125.10 \pm 0.11$ GeV. The uncertainty is compatible with the expected error assuming a SM Higgs boson mass of 125 GeV. The statistical component of the uncertainty is $0.09$ GeV. The corresponding profile likelihood, for the two channels and for their combination, is shown in Fig. 1 (left) as a function of $m_H$. If the small interference predicted by the SM between the Higgs boson and the nonresonant diphoton background was considered for the $H \to \gamma \gamma$ signal parametrization, the $m_H$ value measured by the combination would increase by 15 MeV. This result is in good agreement with the ATLAS + CMS run 1 measurement [19], $m_H = 125.09 \pm 0.24$ GeV. The contributions of the main sources of systematic uncertainty to the combined measurement, using ATLAS run 2 data, are summarized in Table I. The values differ from those reported in Refs. [16,17] because of the relative impact of the $H \to \gamma \gamma$ and $H \to ZZ^* \to 4\ell$ results in the combination. The $E_T$-independent component of the electron and photon in situ energy scale ("$/gamma E_T$-independent Z ee calibration" in Table I) is among the few uncertainties correlated between the $H \to \gamma \gamma$ and $H \to ZZ^* \to 4\ell$ measurements and impacts the former measurement by 59 MeV [16] and the latter by 19 MeV [17]. The combined measurement

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<td>Muon momentum scale</td>
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<td>All other systematic uncertainties</td>
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**FIG. 2.** Summary of $m_H$ measurements from the individual $H \to \gamma \gamma$ and $H \to ZZ^* \to 4\ell$ channels and their combination presented in this Letter. The uncertainty bar on each point corresponds to the total uncertainty; the horizontal shaded bands represent the statistical component of the uncertainties; the vertical red line and gray band represent the combined result presented in this Letter with its total uncertainty.

FIG. 2. Summary of $m_H$ measurements from the individual $H \to \gamma \gamma$ and $H \to ZZ^* \to 4\ell$ channels and their combination presented in this Letter. The uncertainty bar on each point corresponds to the total uncertainty; the horizontal shaded bands represent the statistical component of the uncertainties; the vertical red line and gray band represent the combined result presented in this Letter with its total uncertainty.
from the ATLAS run 1 and run 2 results is $m_H = 125.11 \pm 0.11$ GeV. The statistical component of the uncertainty is $\pm 0.09$ GeV. The four combined measurements are compatible with a $p$ value of 18%. Figure 1 (right) shows the corresponding profile likelihoods, separately for the ATLAS run 1 and run 2 datasets, as well as for their combination, as a function of $m_H$. The contributions of the main sources of systematic uncertainty to the combination of run 1 and run 2 data are nearly identical to those presented in Table I. Figure 2 presents a summary of the $m_H$ measurements from the individual $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ and $H \rightarrow ZZ^{*} \rightarrow 4\ell$ channels and their combinations discussed in this Letter.

In conclusion, the Higgs boson mass $m_H$ is measured using run 2 collision data at 13 TeV yielding

$$m_H = 125.10 \pm 0.09(\text{stat}) \pm 0.07(\text{syst})$$

$$= 125.10 \pm 0.11 \text{ GeV},$$

which is a significant improvement with respect to that reported in Ref. [19]. The systematic uncertainty affecting the $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ measurement is reduced by a factor of about 3 thanks to a novel and improved approach to the photon energy calibration. This is comparable with the factor of about 2 associated with the increase in the data statistics. The systematic uncertainty on the muon momentum energy calibration decreases by about 50% relative to Ref.[19]. Combining the run 2 result with the $m_H$ measurements performed in run 1 at 7 and 8 TeV, the combined result is

$$m_H = 125.11 \pm 0.09(\text{stat}) \pm 0.06(\text{syst})$$

$$= 125.11 \pm 0.11 \text{ GeV}.$$  

This result currently represents the most precise measurement of the Higgs boson mass, reaching a 0.09% precision on this fundamental quantity.

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11 Department of Physics, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, USA
12 Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan
13 Institut de Fisica d'Altes Energies (IFAE), Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology, Barcelona, Spain
14 Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China
15 Physics Department, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
16 Department of Physics, Nanjing University, Nanjing, China
17 School of Science, Shenzhen Campus of Sun Yat-sen University, China
18 University of Chinese Academy of Science (UCAS), Beijing, China
19 Institute of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
20 Department for Physics and Technology, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
21 a Department of Physics, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Türkiye
21 b Department of Physics Engineering, Gaziantep University, Gaziantep, Türkiye
21 c Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma Tre, Roma, Italy
21 d Dipartimento di Fisica,Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Napoli, Italy
21 e Instituto de Física d'Altes Energies (IFAE), Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology, Barcelona, Spain
22 Physics Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, USA
23 a Instituto de Física d’Altes Energies (IFAE), Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology, Barcelona, Spain
23 b Physics Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, USA
24 Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics and Laboratory for High Energy Physics, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland
24 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom
25 a School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom
25 b Department of Physics, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Türkiye
25 c Department of Physics Engineering, Gaziantep University, Gaziantep, Türkiye
25 d Department of Physics, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Türkiye
25 e Departamento de Física, Universidad Antonio Nariño, Bogotá, Colombia
25 f Departamento de Física, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia
25 g Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia A. Righi, Universita di Bologna, Bologna, Italy
26 a Department of Physics, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Türkiye
26 b Department of Physics, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA
26 c Transilvania University of Brasov, Brasov, Romania
27 a Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Bucharest, Romania
27 b Department of Physics, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Iasi, Romania
27 c National Institute for Research and Development of Isotopic and Molecular Technologies, Physics Department, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
27 d University Politehnica Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania
27 e West University in Timisoara, Timisoara, Romania
27 f University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania
27 g Faculty of Physics, University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania
28 a Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovak Republic
28 b Department of Subnuclear Physics, Institute of Experimental Physics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Kosice, Slovak Republic
29 Physics Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York, USA
30 Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Departamento de Fisica, y CONICET, Instituto de Fisica de Buenos Aires (IFIBA), Buenos Aires, Argentina
30 California State University, California, USA
31 Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom
31 a Department of Physics, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
31 b iThemba Labs, Western Cape, South Africa
32 National Institute of Physics, University of the Philippines Diliman (Philippines), Philippines
32 University of the Philippines Diliman (Philippines), Philippines
33 a Department of Physics, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa
33 b University of South Africa, Department of Physics, Pretoria, South Africa
33 c University of South Africa, Department of Physics, Pretoria, South Africa
33 d University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
33 e School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
33 f Department of Physics, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
34 Faculté des Sciences Ain Chock, Réseau Universitaire de Physique des Hautes Energies—Université Hassan II, Casablanca, Morocco
34 a Faculté des Sciences Ain Chock, Réseau Universitaire de Physique des Hautes Energies—Université Hassan II, Casablanca, Morocco
34 b Faculté des Sciences, Université Ibn-Tofail, Kénitra, Morocco
34 c Faculté des Sciences Semlalia, Université Cadi Ayyad, LPHEA-Marrakech, Morocco
34 d LPMR, Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohamed Premier, Oujda, Morocco
34 e Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohammed V, Rabat, Morocco
34 f Institute of Applied Physics, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Ben Guerir, Morocco
34 g CERN, Geneva, Switzerland
35 Affiliated with an institute covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN
35 a Faculté des Sciences, Université de Tanger-Tétouan-Al Hoceima, Fr. Charles, Morocco
35 b Faculté des Sciences, Université Ibn-Tofail, Kénitra, Morocco
35 c Faculté des Sciences, Université de Tanger-Tétouan-Al Hoceima, Fr. Charles, Morocco
35 d Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohamed Premier, Oujda, Morocco
35 e Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohammed V, Rabat, Morocco
35 f Institute of Applied Physics, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Ben Guerir, Morocco
36 Affiliated with an international laboratory covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN
36 a Faculté des Sciences, Université de Tanger-Tétouan-Al Hoceima, Fr. Charles, Morocco
36 b Faculté des Sciences, Université Ibn-Tofail, Kénitra, Morocco
36 c Faculté des Sciences, Université de Tanger-Tétouan-Al Hoceima, Fr. Charles, Morocco
36 d Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohamed Premier, Oujda, Morocco
36 e Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohammed V, Rabat, Morocco
36 f Institute of Applied Physics, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Ben Guerir, Morocco
36 g CERN, Geneva, Switzerland
<table>
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<td>National Centre for Scientific Research “Demokritos”, Agia Paraskevi, Greece</td>
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<td>Department of Physics, Stockholm University, Sweden</td>
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<td>Laboratory for Particle Physics and Cosmology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA</td>
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<td>Department of Modern Physics and State Key Laboratory of Particle Detection and Electronics, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, China</td>
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<td>Institute of Frontier and Interdisciplinary Science and Key Laboratory of Particle Physics and Particle Irradiation (MOE), Shandong University, Qingdao, China</td>
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<td>Department of Physics, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Key Laboratory for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology (MOE), SKLPPC, Shanghai, China</td>
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<td>Kirchhoff-Institut für Physik, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany</td>
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<td>Department of Physics, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong, China</td>
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<td>Department of Physics and Institute for Advanced Study, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong, China</td>
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<td>Dipartimento Politecnico di Ingegneria e Architettura, Università di Udine, Udine, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dipartimento di Fisica, Sapienza Università di Roma, Roma, Italy</td>
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Department of Physics, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway

Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom

LPNHE, Sorbonne Université, Université Paris Cité, CNRS/IN2P3, Paris, France

Department of Physics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

Departamento de Física, Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal

Departamento de Física, Universidade de Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal

Departamento de Física, Universidade do Minho, Braga, Portugal

Departamento de Física Teórica y del Cosmos, Universidad de Granada, Granada (Spain), Spain

Instituto of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic

Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Prague, Czech Republic

Particle Physics Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom

Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic

Universidade Andres Bello, Santiago, Chile

Department of Physics and Astronomy, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York, USA

Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom

School of Physics, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

E. Andronikashvili Institute of Physics, Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

High Energy Physics Institute, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

University of Georgia, Tbilisi, Georgia

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRIUMF, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

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

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

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

United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates

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

Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden

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

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

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

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

Fakultät für Physik und Astronomie, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany
Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom

Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan

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

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

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

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

deceased.

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

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

Also at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, USA.

Also at TRIUMF, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Also at Department of Physics, University of Thessaly, Greece.

Also at Institut für Physik, Universität Mainz, Mainz, Germany.

Also at An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine.

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

Also at University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Physics, Colorado, USA.

Also at SUPA—School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom.

Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Also at CERN Tier-0, Switzerland.

Also at Department of Physics, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, USA.

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

Also at Affiliated with an institute covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN.

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

Also at Department of Physics, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel.

Also at Università di Napoli Parthenope, Napoli, Italy.

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

Also at Group of Particle Physics, University of Montpellier, Montpellier, France.

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

Also at National Institute of Physics, University of the Philippines Diliman (Philippines), Philippines.

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

Also at Department of Physics, Stanford University, Stanford, California, USA.

Also at Centro Studi e Ricerche Enrico Fermi, Italy.

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

Also at Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany.

Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom.

Also at Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom.

Also at Yeditepe University, Physics Department, Istanbul, Türkiye.

Also at Institute of Theoretical Physics, Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia.

Also at CERN, Geneva, Switzerland.

Also at Department of Physics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA.

Also at Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation (CIRI-AUTH), Thessaloniki, Greece.

Also at School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom.

Also at Hellenic Open University, Patras, Greece.

Also at Center for High Energy Physics, Peking University, China.

Also at APC, Université Paris Cité, CNRS/IN2P3, Paris, France.

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

Also at Department of Physics, Royal Holloway University of London, Egham, United Kingdom.

Also at L2IT, Université de Toulouse, CNRS/IN2P3, UPS, Toulouse, France.

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

Also at Département de Physique Nucléaire et Corpusculaire, Université de Genève, Genève, Switzerland.

Also at Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY, Hamburg and Zeuthen, Germany.

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

Also at Fakultät Physik, Technische Universität Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany.

Also at Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy (INRNE) of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria.

Also at Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland, USA.
Also at School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom.
Also at Institut für Experimentalphysik, Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany.
Also at Institute of Applied Physics, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Ben Guerir, Morocco.
Also at Institute of Physics and Technology, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
Also at University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS), Beijing, China.