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Letter

Measurement of the top quark mass with the ATLAS detector using $t\bar{t}$ events with a high transverse momentum top quark

The ATLAS Collaboration *

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ABSTRACT

The mass of the top quark is measured using top-quark-top-antiquark pair events with high transverse momentum top quarks. The dataset, collected with the ATLAS detector in proton–proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV delivered by the Large Hadron Collider, corresponds to an integrated luminosity of 140 fb^{-1}. The analysis targets events in the lepton-plus-jets decay channel, with an electron or muon from a semi-leptonically decaying top quark and a hadronically decaying top quark that is sufficiently energetic to be reconstructed as a single large-radius jet. The mean of the invariant mass of the reconstructed large-radius jet provides the sensitivity to the top quark mass and is simultaneously fitted with two additional observables to reduce the impact of the systematic uncertainties. The top quark mass is measured to be $m_t = 172.95 \pm 0.53$ GeV, which is the most precise ATLAS measurement from a single channel.

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1. Introduction

The top quark is the heaviest fundamental particle observed to date and precise knowledge of its mass (m_t) is crucial to test the consistency of the Standard Model (SM) of particle physics [1–5]. Since the discovery of the top quark at the Tevatron [6,7], the CDF and D0 collaborations have made multiple measurements of m_t, culminating in the 2016 combined result [8]. The two general-purpose experiments at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), ATLAS [9] and CMS [10], produced multiple measurements of m_t using data collected in proton–proton (pp) collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV and 8 TeV. The combination of these measurements is $m_t = 172.52 \pm 0.33$ GeV [11]. The large dataset provided by the LHC during collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 140 fb^{-1} increases substantially the number of top quarks available for measurements. Measurements of m_t performed with a partial 13 TeV dataset [12–18] include the most precise single measurement to date of 171.77 ± 0.37 GeV [16] from the CMS Collaboration. The 13 TeV dataset also opens the possibility to make measurements in rare phase-space regions, for example events where the top quarks have high transverse momenta (p_T). In this boosted regime, the top-quark

* *E-mail address:* atlas.publications@cern.ch.

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decay products are collimated and are often captured in a single large-radius (large-R) jet. This simplifies the reconstruction of hadronically decaying top quarks compared with the inclusive phase space, potentially reducing the systematic uncertainties in m_t. In this regime the CMS Collaboration measured $m_t = 173.06 \pm 0.84$ GeV [19].

In this Letter, the first ATLAS measurement of the top quark mass using boosted top quarks is presented. The measurement targets events consistent with top quark pair production in the lepton-plus-jets decay channel ($t\bar{t} \to W^+W^-b\bar{b} \to \ell\nu q\bar{q}'b\bar{b}$ with $\ell = e$ or μ) and the hadronically decaying top quark is reconstructed using a single large-R jet ($R = 1.0$). The large-R jets used in this Letter are formed by reclustering $R = 0.4$ jets [20] such that the energy and mass scales of the large-R jets are largely determined by the precise jet energy scale of the $R = 0.4$ jets [21]. The selection and reconstruction applied largely follow those of the ATLAS cross-section measurement in the same channel [22]. The mean of the invariant mass of the selected large-R jet is the observable sensitive to m_t and two additional observables are defined to control and reduce the impact of the systematic uncertainties. One observable is sensitive to the jet energy scale and the other is sensitive to radiation from the b-quarks that originate from the decay of top quarks. The top quark mass is obtained from a profile-likelihood fit to the three observables in which the systematic uncertainties are included as nuisance parameters. The combination of the boosted selection, improved understanding of the flavour dependence of the jet energy response [23,24] and the fit strategy lead to smaller systematic uncertainties than in previous ATLAS m_t measurements.

The fit model in the measurement uses Monte Carlo (MC) simulation that is based on a next-to-leading-order (NLO) calculation in quantum chromodynamics (QCD) of $t\bar{t}$ production. This is interfaced to a parton shower (PS) algorithm that provides resummation of soft and collinear QCD radiation and a non-pertubative hadronisation model that simulates the formation of hadrons. The top quark mass is a renormalisation-scheme-dependent parameter in perturbative quantum field theory. The precise identification of the m_t parameter in MC simulations within a field-theoretic mass scheme is the subject of theoretical studies [25–28]. The boosted top-quark regime may, in the future, offer the possibility to connect to hadron-level calculations where the top quark mass is unambiguously defined [27,28].

2. Data and simulation

The data were recorded with the ATLAS detector at the Large Hadron Collider during pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV using triggers designed to select events containing high p_{T} electrons or muons [29–31]. The integrated luminosity of the dataset is 140 fb^{-1} [32]. The ATLAS experiment [9] is a multipurpose particle detector with a forward–backward symmetric cylindrical geometry and a near 4π coverage in solid angle.[1] It consists of an inner tracking detector surrounded by a thin superconducting solenoid providing a 2 T axial magnetic field, electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters, and a muon spectrometer. The inner tracking detector covers the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 2.5$. It consists of silicon pixel, silicon microstrip, and transition radiation tracking detectors. Lead/liquid-argon (LAr) sampling calorimeters provide electromagnetic (EM) energy measurements with high granularity within the region $|\eta| < 3.2$. A steel/scintillator-tile hadronic calorimeter covers the central pseudorapidity range ($|\eta| < 1.7$). The endcap and forward regions are instrumented with LAr calorimeters for EM and hadronic energy measurements up to $|\eta| = 4.9$. The muon spectrometer surrounds the calorimeters and is based on three large superconducting air-core toroidal magnets with eight coils each. The field integral of the toroids ranges between 2.0 and 6.0 T m across most of the detector. The muon spectrometer includes a system of precision tracking chambers up to $|\eta| = 2.7$ and fast detectors for triggering up to $|\eta| = 2.4$. The luminosity is measured mainly by the LUCID–2 [33] detector, which is located close to the beampipe. A two-level trigger system is used to select events [34]. The first-level trigger is implemented in hardware and uses a subset of the detector information to accept events at a rate close to 100 kHz. This is followed by a software-based trigger that reduces the accepted rate of complete events to 1.25 kHz on average depending on the data-taking conditions. A software suite [35] is used in data simulation, in the reconstruction and analysis of real and simulated data, in detector operations, and in the trigger and data acquisition systems of the experiment.

Monte Carlo simulated event samples are used in the analysis to model the $t\bar{t}$ events and most of the background processes. Most samples are processed through a full simulation of the ATLAS detector [36] based on GEANT4 [37]. A few samples used for evaluating the systematic uncertainties employ a faster simulation setup that makes use of parameterised showers in the calorimeters [38]. All simulated samples are overlaid with additional pp interactions (pileup), generated with PYTHIA 8.186 [39] using the NNPDF2.3LO [40] set of parton distribution functions (PDF) and the A3 set of tuned parameters [41]. The average number of interactions per bunch crossing is reweighted to match that in data. Events are processed with the same reconstruction pipeline as the data. A m_t value of 172.5 GeV is used in all samples, unless stated otherwise.

The production of $t\bar{t}$ events is modelled using the POWHEG BOX v2 [42–45] generator, which provides matrix elements (ME) at NLO in QCD in the production process (implemented via POWHEG-hvq), and the NNPDF3.0NLO [46] PDF set. The h_{damp} parameter, which effectively regulates the high transverse momentum (p_{T}) radiation against which the $t\bar{t}$ system recoils, is set to $1.5m_t$ [47]. The renormalisation (μ_{r}) and factorisation (μ_{f}) scales are dynamic, using the functional form: $\sqrt{m_t^2 + p_{\mathrm{T}}^2(t)}$. The events are interfaced with PYTHIA 8.230 [48] for the parton shower and hadronisation, using the A14 set of tuned parameters [49] and the NNPDF2.3LO set of PDFs. The value of the strong coupling constant in the final state shower of PYTHIA (α_s^{FSR}) is 0.127. Matrix element corrections that approximate NLO QCD are enabled in PYTHIA for all emissions, compensating for the leading-order (LO) precision used in POWHEG-hvq to simulate the top quark decay. The $p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{hard}}$ parameter, which affects the matching of the parton shower to the ME calculation, is set to 0. The recoil parameter, which decides the recoil target for secondary gluon emissions from the b-quark in the $t \to Wb$ vertex, is set to the b-quark.[2] The early resonance decay parameter, controlling whether resonance decays can occur before or after colour reconnection (CR) happens in the simulation, is set such that resonance decays can only occur after CR. Samples are generated with the full ATLAS detector simulation and five different m_t values: 171, 172, 172.5, 173 and 174 GeV. The sample with $m_t = 172.5$ GeV is referred to as the nominal $t\bar{t}$ sample. An additional sample using the fast detector simulation is available for comparisons made to fast-simulation samples used for evaluating some of the systematic uncertainties.

Alternative $t\bar{t}$ samples are generated to assess the systematic uncertainties in the modelling of $t\bar{t}$ production. Several samples make just one change in the MC settings compared to the nominal $t\bar{t}$ sample, allowing individual systematic effects to be investigated separately. To probe uncertainties in final-state radiation (FSR), two samples are generated with alternative values of α_s^{FSR}, equal to 0.115 for the down variation and 0.142 for the up variation, corresponding to variations of the scale

[1] ATLAS uses a right-handed coordinate system with its origin at the nominal interaction point (IP) in the centre of the detector and the z-axis along the beam pipe. The x-axis points from the IP to the centre of the LHC ring, and the y-axis points upwards. Polar coordinates (r, ϕ) are used in the transverse plane, ϕ being the azimuthal angle around the z-axis. The pseudorapidity is defined in terms of the polar angle θ as $\eta = -\ln\tan(\theta/2)$ and is equal to the rapidity $y = \frac{1}{2}\ln\left(\frac{E+p_z}{E-p_z}\right)$ in the relativistic limit. Angular distance is measured in units of $\Delta R \equiv \sqrt{(\Delta y)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2}$.

[2] This corresponds to setting `recoilToColor=on` in the `TimeShower` class in PYTHIA.

$\mu_{\mathrm{r}}^{\mathrm{FSR}}$ by a factor of two and a half. Another sample is produced with the h_{damp} parameter doubled to $3m_t$. The ambiguities in matching the ME calculation and the parton shower are tested with a sample where the $p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{hard}}$ parameter is set to 1 [50]. The ambiguity in the choice of the recoil particle for the secondary gluon emission from a b quark produced in $t \to Wb$ is addressed by generating a sample where the top quark takes part in the recoil (recoil-to-top). Uncertainties in the modelling of the underlying event are evaluated with two samples where the settings for the α_s value used in the multiple parton interactions (MPI) and the CR range of the proton beam remnants are changed according to the VAR1 eigentune of Pythia [49]. Two samples are generated with alternative CR models: in the 'QCD-based' model (CR1) the formation of dipoles containing three quarks is enhanced and as a consequence the production of baryons is enhanced, while in the 'gluon-move' model (CR2) only the gluons are considered for the reconnection. To isolate the systematic effects related to the CR model, a third sample (CR0) is generated with the nominal MPI-based CR model, but employing a dedicated CR tune that is consistent with the tuning used in the CR1 and CR2 samples [51,52].

The effects of using different parton shower and hadronisation models are evaluated using a sample produced with Powheg interfaced to Herwig 7.2.1 [53–56] using the default set of tuned parameters and the MMHT2014lo [57] PDF set. The settings in Powheg are the same as in the nominal sample.

Two further $t\bar{t}$ samples are used to test the robustness of the fit model. One sample is simulated using the same setup as the nominal sample, except for having the early resonance decay parameter set such that resonance decays can occur before CR happens in the simulation. The other $t\bar{t}$ sample is simulated with the Sherpa 2.2.12 [58] generator using MEs at NLO in QCD for up to two partons, and at LO in QCD for up to four partons calculated with the Comix [59] and OpenLoops [60–62] libraries. They were matched with the Sherpa parton shower [63] using the MEPS@NLO prescription [64–67] and a dedicated set of tuned parton-shower parameters developed by the Sherpa authors. The NNPDF3.0nnlo [46] set of PDFs was used.

All $t\bar{t}$ samples are normalised to the m_t-dependent cross-section prediction at next-to-next-to-leading-order (NNLO) in QCD, including a resummation of next-to-next-to-leading logarithmic (NNLL) soft-gluon terms. Top++ 2.0 yields $\sigma_{t\bar{t}} = 832^{+20}_{-29}(\mathrm{scale})^{+35}_{-35}(\mathrm{PDF}+\alpha_S)$ pb for $m_t = 172.5$ GeV [68–74].

Backgrounds to the signal process including the decay of at least one W or Z boson into leptons are simulated using MC samples. Top quark production in association with a W boson (tW) and single-top-quark (single-top) production via the s-channel are modelled using the same setup as the nominal $t\bar{t}$ sample, using the five-flavour scheme. The diagram removal scheme [75] was used to remove interference and overlap between tW and $t\bar{t}$ production. An alternative sample is simulated using the diagram subtraction scheme [47,75] to evaluate the uncertainty due to the choice of the interference treatment scheme. Another alternative sample is generated with Powheg interfaced to Herwig 7.04 [53,54] to test the impact of a different parton shower and hadronisation model in tW production. Single-top t-channel production is modelled in an identical way to tW and s-channel production, but using the four-flavour scheme in the PDF set [76]. All single-top samples are normalised using cross-section predictions at higher orders, at NNLO in QCD for the s-channel and t-channel [77] and at NLO+NNLL in QCD for the tW process [78].

The production of $t\bar{t}V$ events, where V represents a W or Z boson, is modelled at NLO in QCD using the MadGraph5_aMC@NLO 2.3.3 [79] generator with the NNPDF3.0nlo PDF set. The events were interfaced to Pythia 8.210 using the A14 tune and the NNPDF2.3lo PDF set. The production of $t\bar{t}H$ events is modelled using the same generator setup as the nominal $t\bar{t}$ sample. The $t\bar{t}W$ sample was normalised to a cross-section calculated at NNLO in QCD, including NLO electroweak corrections [80], whereas the $t\bar{t}Z$ and $t\bar{t}H$ samples were normalised to cross-sections calculated at NLO in both the strong and electroweak couplings [81].

The production of V+jets is simulated with the Sherpa 2.2.1 [58] generator in an identical way to the $t\bar{t}$ sample simulated using Sherpa. The samples were normalised to a NNLO prediction in QCD [82].

Samples of diboson final states (VV) are simulated with the Sherpa 2.2.1 or 2.2.2 [58] generator depending on the process, using MEs at NLO in QCD for up to one additional parton and at LO in QCD for up to three additional parton emissions. Samples for the loop-induced processes $gg \to VV$ were simulated using LO-accurate ME for up to one additional parton emission. The ME calculations were matched and merged with the Sherpa parton shower as in the V+jets samples. The samples also use the same set of PDFs and dedicated set of tuned-parameters.

All simulated samples other than those generated with Sherpa use the EvtGen program [83] to simulate the decays of bottom and charm hadrons. Most of the samples use version 1.6.0 of the program. The alternative $t\bar{t}$ samples used to probe the FSR and the parton shower and hadronisation uncertainties use version 1.7.0 and the $t\bar{t}W$ and $t\bar{t}Z$ samples are produced using version 1.2.0.

The QCD multijet background refers to events originating from processes that do not involve leptons produced by W, Z or Higgs boson decays. It is estimated by using the data-driven 'Matrix method' [22,84], in which a selection of events in data with looser identification and isolation lepton requirements is used along with measurements of the probability of leptons to satisfy the nominal selection requirements.

3. Event reconstruction and selection

Electron candidates are identified by matching energy deposits in the electromagnetic calorimeter with a corresponding track in the inner tracking detector. They must have $p_{\mathrm{T}} > 27$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.47$, excluding candidates with $1.37 < |\eta| < 1.52$. They must also satisfy the 'Tight' identification and isolation requirements discussed in Ref. [85]. Muon candidates are reconstructed by combining a track in the inner tracking detector with either a track or hits in the muon spectrometer. They are required to have $p_{\mathrm{T}} > 27$ GeV, $|\eta| < 2.5$, satisfy the 'Medium' identification requirements and the 'Tight' isolation requirements [86]. The transverse momenta requirements on the leptons are chosen to be slightly above the single-lepton trigger thresholds. Corrections are applied to the simulation to bring the efficiency of lepton reconstruction and identification in agreement with the data and to correct the energy (momentum) scale and resolution of electrons (muons).

The anti-k_t clustering algorithm [87,88] is used to reconstruct jets with radius parameter $R = 0.4$ using particle flow objects, utilising both track and calorimeter information [89]. The energy scale of jets is calibrated using both simulation and data [21] and selected jets must have $p_{\mathrm{T}} > 26$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.5$. Corrections are also applied to the simulation to bring the jet energy resolution in simulation into agreement with the jet energy resolution measured in data [21]. For jets with $p_{\mathrm{T}} < 60$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$, a threshold placed on the output of the multivariate jet-vertex tagger (JVT) must be satisfied to remove jets originating from pileup [90]. Overlap removal criteria are applied to avoid double counting energy between leptons and jets, as discussed in Ref. [22]. Jets including b-hadrons (b-jets) are identified using the DL1r multivariate b-tagging algorithm [91], where the chosen working point corresponds to an efficiency of 77% per b-jet, and rejection factors of 170 and 5 for light-flavour (u, d, s) jets and jets initiated by c-quarks, respectively. Reconstructed jets satisfying this working point are referred to as b-tagged jets. Measurements of the efficiency of the b-tagging algorithm are used to adjust the simulation to match the performance measured in data [92–94].

To reconstruct the hadronic decay of boosted ($p_{\mathrm{T}} \gtrsim 2m_t$) top quarks, the anti-$k_t$ algorithm is used to form large-R jets with radius parameter $R = 1.0$ using as input selected $R = 0.4$ (small-R) jets with $p_{\mathrm{T}} > 30$ GeV [20]. A trimming procedure [20,22,95] is applied to the

large-R jets to remove constituent jets likely to originate entirely from pileup. The four-momenta of large-R jets are calculated from the sum of four-momenta of the constituent jets, allowing the jet energy scale of the small-R jets to be propagated to the large-R jets. To ensure that the large-R jet corresponds to the hadronic decay of a boosted top quark it must have $p_{\mathrm{T}} > 355$ GeV, $|\eta| < 2.0$, contain at least two jet constituents where at least one must be a b-tagged jet, and have an invariant mass in the range of $120 < m_J < 220$ GeV. In cases where events have more than one reconstructed large-R jet that satisfies these criteria, the one with highest p_{T} is associated with the boosted top-quark decay, and is referred to as the 'top-jet'. The missing transverse momentum, with magnitude $E_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}}$, is reconstructed based on the negative vector sum of the momentum of the calibrated leptons, small-R jets with p_{T} above 20 GeV (30 GeV) for $|\eta| < 2.5$ ($|\eta| > 2.5$) and the soft radiation term [96].

Selected events must have one top-jet (J), at least one b-tagged jet not associated with the top-jet, and exactly one lepton candidate. The selected lepton must match the lepton reconstructed by the trigger within $\Delta R < 0.15$ [29,30]. A requirement of $\Delta R(e, J) > 1.0$ ensures that the top-jet is not originating from a high-p_{T} electron. Additionally, the lepton is required to be close to a b-tagged jet not associated with the top-jet, $\Delta R(\ell, b) < 2.0$. A requirement that the invariant mass of the lepton and the closest b-tagged jet satisfying the former selection must be less than 180 GeV is applied to reject events originating from tW single-top production while retaining on-shell $t\bar{t}$ signal events [97]. The contribution from the multijet background is reduced by requiring that events have $E_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}} > 20$ GeV and $E_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}} + m_{\mathrm{T}}^{W} > 60$ GeV, where m_{T}^{W} is the transverse mass of the W boson.[3] These requirements ensure that the events have the expected boosted topology.

4. Systematic uncertainties

Many systematic uncertainties affect the measurement of m_t and are described below. Systematic uncertainties are found to have approximately symmetric effects on the observables used in this Letter and are explicitly symmetrised as follows. For uncertainties with separate 'up' and 'down' variations, the symmetric effect is obtained from the average of the two variations. For systematic uncertainties where there is only one variation, this is taken as the 'up' variation and the effect is mirrored to obtain the 'down' variation. Before measuring m_t, all systematic uncertainties are assumed to be uncorrelated with one another. The impact of the uncertainties on the measurement is discussed in Section 6.

The uncertainty in the integrated luminosity is 0.83% [32] and is applied to all processes other than the QCD multijet background. The reweighting of the simulation to match the pileup distribution in data involves rescaling the average number of interactions per bunch crossing to achieve improved agreement between data and simulation for the observed number of primary vertices. The uncertainty in this rescaling is propagated to the reweighting factors to estimate the uncertainty due to pileup.

Electrons and muons have uncertainties associated with the efficiency for the reconstruction, identification and isolation requirements, all derived from studies using $Z \to ee$ and $Z \to \mu\mu$ events [85,86]. Similar studies give the uncertainties in the trigger efficiencies [29,30]. Uncertainties corresponding to the electron and muon energy/momentum scales and resolutions are evaluated using resonance decays [98,99].

Uncertainties in the jet energy scale (JES) are evaluated using 35 independent variations in the jet energies that parametrise the uncertainties in the JES of $R = 0.4$ particle flow jets [21,23,24], which are propagated through to the large-R jets. Included are six variations related to the flavour of the jets. Three variations relate to the response difference between light-flavour quark- and gluon-initiated jets and three for the response of heavy-flavour (c, b) quark-initiated jets [23,24]. The total flavour response uncertainty on b-quark-initiated jets is 1.2% (0.3%) at $p_{\mathrm{T}} = 30(100)$ GeV. This is an improved treatment relative to previous ATLAS m_t measurements and reduces the impact of flavour uncertainties in the measurement. The remaining variations correspond to the uncertainties from the in situ calibration and from the impact of pileup on the jets. Previous studies have shown that propagating the $R = 0.4$ JES uncertainties to large-R reclustered jets provides an accurate model of the large-R jet energy and mass scales [100,101]. In the remainder of the Letter, the heavy-flavour (HF) JES uncertainties are presented separately to the other JES uncertainties, as these are not expected to be constrained in the fit. Uncertainties in the jet energy resolution (JER) are evaluated using 13 independent variations that reflect the uncertainties in the measurements of the JER [21] and these are propagated to the large-R jets. An uncertainty in the efficiency of the JVT requirement on jets for pileup suppression is also included.

Uncertainties corresponding to the performance calibrations of the b-tagging algorithm in data are propagated by varying the efficiency corrections associated with the b-tagging [92–94]. This uncertainty model includes nine / four / four independent variations for the b / c / light-jet calibrations, respectively, and two components for the extrapolation to high-p_{T} jets.

Uncertainties in the $E_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}}$ arise from potential mismodelling of the tracks in the soft term. Three variations for the uncertainty in the scale and resolution of the $E_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}}$ soft term are included. Furthermore, the uncertainties in the energy scales and resolutions of the leptons and jets are propagated to the $E_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}}$.

The modelling of $t\bar{t}$ events is a complex process and several systematic uncertainties are included to reflect the corresponding uncertainties. These are assessed by either reweighting the nominal $t\bar{t}$ sample or by using the alternative $t\bar{t}$ samples described in Section 2. The uncertainty due to missing higher-order corrections is covered by separately varying μ_{r} and μ_{f} in the ME calculation by factors of 0.5 and 2.0. The p_{T} distribution of the top quarks is known to be softer in data than the nominal $t\bar{t}$ prediction and better described by NNLO calculations [22,102,103]. As a consequence, an additional uncertainty is included by reweighting the distribution of the top quark p_{T}, and the p_{T} and mass distributions of the $t\bar{t}$ pair in the simulation to match the prediction calculated at NNLO in QCD with NLO electroweak corrections [104]. The uncertainty originating from the PDFs is evaluated using the 30 eigenvectors of the PDF4LHC PDF set [105]. Several systematic variations are made to cover uncertainties in the amount of QCD radiation in $t\bar{t}$ events. One uncertainty component is obtained by reweigthting the $t\bar{t}$ sample to use the Var3c eigentune of the Pythia 8 A14 tune, which changes the scales in the initial-state radiation (ISR) shower in Pythia. Another uncertainty component is derived from the $t\bar{t}$ sample with the alternative value for the h_{damp} parameter. Variations in the FSR are obtained using the samples with alternative values of α_s^{FSR}. The change in scale is applied to all branchings in the parton shower, consistent with the expectation that at high p_{T} light-flavour quarks and b-quarks must behave in the same way. The uncertainty related to the matching of the NLO calculation is evaluated using the $t\bar{t}$ sample with the alternative $p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{hard}}$ setting. Uncertainties in the parton shower and hadronisation model are assessed by comparing the sample generated with Powheg+Herwig7.2.1 with the nominal $t\bar{t}$ sample. In the simulation of QCD radiation from the b-quarks produced in the top quark decay, there is an ambiguity in the choice of the recoil particle for gluon emissions after the first emission [106]. This can affect out-of-cone radiation for the reconstructed b-tagged jets and hence the reconstructed top quark mass. An uncertainty for this is assessed by using the sample with the alternative recoil setting in Pythia. The uncertainty from the underlying event is assessed using the two samples generated with the VAR1 eigentune variation. Uncertainties in the CR model are assessed by comparing the samples with the two alternative CR models (CR1 and CR2)

[3] $m_{\mathrm{T}}^{W} = \sqrt{2 p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\ell} E_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}} (1 - \cos\Delta\phi)}$ where p_{T}^{ℓ} is the transverse momentum of the lepton and $\Delta\phi$ is the difference in azimuthal angle between the lepton and missing transverse momentum.

with the CR0 sample. CR1 and CR2 are seen to have different impacts on the observables used in the measurement. Both models have different m_{jj} distributions to the nominal, while only CR2 is seen to have a different shape in m_{tj} (see Section 5 for definitions of m_{tj} and m_{jj}). Both comparisons are therefore included as systematic uncertainties.

The event selection (Section 3) results in a sample dominated by $t\bar{t}$ events and hence uncertainties in the background model play a minor role in the measurement. The largest background is the single-top tW process. Variations of the scales in the NLO calculation and the parton shower are included in the same way as done for the $t\bar{t}$ sample. These uncertainties are assumed to be uncorrelated with the uncertainties in the $t\bar{t}$ sample. The uncertainty originating from the removal of $t\bar{t}$ events from the tW sample is accounted for by comparing a sample with the diagram subtraction scheme [75] with the nominal sample that uses the diagram removal scheme. The uncertainty in the overall production rate of 3.7% for tW includes scale, PDF and α_s uncertainties in the higher-order calculation of the cross-section. The equivalent uncertainties for the single-top s- and t-channel processes are 3.9% and 1.9%, respectively. The uncertainty in the W+jets background is evaluated by modifying event weights corresponding to varying the renormalisation and factorisation scales simultaneously by factors of 0.5 and 2.0. The background from processes where top-quark-top-antiquark pairs are produced in association with either a vector boson or the Higgs boson ($t\bar{t}X$) is dominated by the $t\bar{t}W$ process. As the $t\bar{t}W$ cross-section recently measured by ATLAS [107] is higher than the theoretical prediction by slightly more than the theory uncertainty, the difference between the measurement and the theory (18%) is used as the normalisation uncertainty for all the $t\bar{t}X$ processes. Very few Z+jets and diboson events satisfy the event selection and an uncertainty of 50% is used for the normalisation of these processes. The QCD multijet background has a normalisation uncertainty of 65%, following Ref. [22].

5. Definition of observables

Three observables are built using the kinematic information of the selected events. The first observable is the invariant mass of the top-jet, m_J, whose mean value ($\overline{m_J}$), calculated using events with $145 < m_J < 205$ GeV, is sensitive to m_t, as shown in Fig. 1(a).

The second observable is m_{jj}, defined as the invariant mass of the two non b-tagged constituent jets inside the top-jet that have the largest p_{T}. This observable is defined only for events where the constituents of the top-jet include at least two jets that are not b-tagged. In the nominal $t\bar{t}$ simulation, 62% of the selected events are expected to meet this requirement. This observable aims at identifying the jets that originate from the $W \to q\bar{q}'$ decay and is sensitive to the JES. This is demonstrated in Fig. 1(b), which shows the expected distribution for the observable and for the first eigenvector component of the JES systematic uncertainties relating to the MC models used for the in situ JES calibration [21]. The expected distribution includes a clear peak corresponding to the W boson decay, where the W boson mass is sufficiently well known such that m_{jj} can be used to constrain the JES uncertainties.

The final observable is m_{tj}, defined as the invariant mass of the semi-leptonically decaying top quark ($t \to \ell\nu b$) and the closest additional jet. This observable is designed to select events where there is additional QCD radiation from the b-quark and aims at constraining the systematic associated with the recoil in the top quark decay (see Section 4). The increased wide-angle radiation in the alternative recoil model results in lower $\overline{m_J}$ than the nominal model and this change in radiation pattern also results in an increase in the number of events with an additional jet close to the semi-leptonically decaying top quark, allowing m_{tj} to control this uncertainty source. The semi-leptonically decaying top quark is reconstructed using the lepton, the closest b-tagged jet not associated with the top-jet, and the neutrino, where the missing transverse momentum is used to estimate p_x^ν and p_y^ν, while p_z^ν is calculated using $m(\ell\nu) = m_W$ [22]. Using the subset of events (3.7% of selected simulated $t\bar{t}$ events) that have an additional jet that is close to this reconstructed top quark, $\Delta R(t, j) < 0.5$, m_{tj} is expected to peak close to the top quark mass for events with additional radiation from the b-quark. The distribution of m_{tj} for the nominal simulation is compared with the one from the alternative recoil model in Fig. 1(c). The alternative model is found to predict more events than the nominal model, particularly near $m_{tj} \sim m_t$, consistent with the expectation of increased wide-angle radiation.

The numbers of events satisfying the selection criteria for the data and the simulated signal and background processes for the three observables are shown in Table 1. The observed difference between the number of data events and the total prediction is consistent with the previous observations that the prediction from POWHEG+PYTHIA is higher than the measured cross-section at high top quark p_{T} [22,102]. The agreement between prediction and data improves if POWHEG+PYTHIA is reweighted to match NNLO predictions [102].

6. Profile-likelihood fit and results

The mean of the invariant mass of the selected top-jet is found to depend linearly on m_t as $\overline{m_J}(m_t) = A + B \cdot (m_t - 172.5)$. The parameters A and B are extracted by performing a fit to combined signal and background templates created from the $t\bar{t}$ MC samples with different m_t values and the fit is displayed in Fig. 1(a). The effect of changing m_t in the single-top background was found to be negligible and is not included in the parameterisation. The $\overline{m_J}$ also depends on the number of $t\bar{t}$ events (due to the background contribution) and the systematic uncertainties, included via the nuisance parameters (NP) $\boldsymbol{\theta}$. Including these effects results in

$$\overline{m_J}(m_t, \mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = A + B \cdot (m_t - 172.5) + C \cdot (\mu - 1) + \sum_s \theta_s \Delta_s, \tag{1}$$

where μ controls the expected number of $t\bar{t}$ events and is defined such that $\mu = 1$ is the SM prediction with $\sigma_{t\bar{t}} = 832$ pb (see Section 2). The parameter $C = 0.02$ GeV is determined by varying the $t\bar{t}$ cross-section by $\pm 10\%$. This small impact on the top quark mass originates from the low number of background events. The parameters Δ_s encode the symmetric impact of changing each systematic uncertainty s by one standard deviation. The simulation confirms that all systematic uncertainties with a significant impact on $\overline{m_J}$ have a symmetric impact on $\overline{m_J}$. Due to the large number of selected events, the measured value in data $\overline{m_J}^d$ is expected to follow a Gaussian distribution (G) with width $\sigma_{\overline{m_J}}$ given by the root-mean-square (RMS) of $\overline{m_J}$ divided by the square root of the expected number of events. A likelihood is constructed using $\overline{m_J}$ and the binned distributions of m_{jj} and m_{tj}:

$$\begin{aligned} L\left(\overline{m_J}^d, \boldsymbol{n}_{m_{jj}}, \boldsymbol{n}_{m_{tj}} | m_t, \mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) \\ = G\left[\overline{m_J}^d | \overline{m_J}(m_t, \mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}), \sigma_{\overline{m_J}}\right] \\ \times \prod_i P\left[n_{m_{jj},i} | \nu_i(\mu, \boldsymbol{\theta})\right] \times \prod_k P\left[n_{m_{tj},k} | \rho_k(\mu, \boldsymbol{\theta})\right] \\ \times \prod_s G\left[\beta_s | \theta_s, 1\right], \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

where ν_i and ρ_k are the expected number of events in each bin of the m_{jj} and m_{tj} observables, respectively. The number of bins is chosen to achieve sufficient sensitivity to the systematic uncertainties, while retaining enough events in each bin to avoid issues with statistical uncertainties in the simulation. Twelve bins are used for m_{jj} and three for m_{tj}. The large bin width for m_{tj} ensures negligible dependence on m_t and m_{jj} also has no visible dependence on m_t. Consequently, ν_i and ρ_k depend on the number of $t\bar{t}$ events and the systematic uncertainties, but not m_t. The observed number of events in the bins, $\boldsymbol{n}_{m_{jj}}$ and $\boldsymbol{n}_{m_{tj}}$ act to constrain the impact of the systematic uncertainties on the m_t measurement. The events contributing to $\overline{m_J}$, m_{jj} and m_{tj} are not orthogonal and there is a degree of statistical correlation between the observables. The likelihood assumes that the observables can be treated as statistically

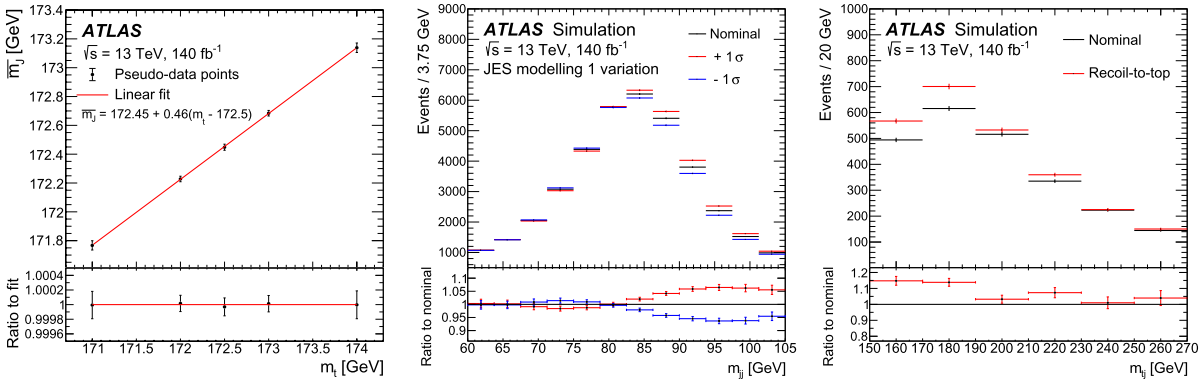


Fig. 1. The dependence of $\overline{m_J}$ on m_t is shown in (a) where the filled pseudo-data points are built from $t\bar{t}$ samples with different values of the top quark mass and the nominal background prediction. For each point, $\overline{m_J}$ is calculated using events in the range of $145 < m_J < 205$ GeV. The linear fit to the points is shown by the solid line and the fit parameters are also displayed in (a). (b) Comparison between the m_{jj} distribution expected for the nominal $t\bar{t}$ simulation and the simulation where one of the JES uncertainties is varied to $\pm 1\sigma$ and (c) m_{tj} distribution for the alternative recoil-to-top model used in the top quark decay compared with the nominal $t\bar{t}$ prediction. The error bars show the statistical uncertainty in the MC samples.

Table 1
The observed number of data events is compared with the expectation from the signal and background processes for the selections for the m_J, m_{jj} and m_{tj} observables. The uncertainties in the expectations include all systematic uncertainties described in Section 4.

Process	$145 < m_J < 205$ GeV	$60 < m_{jj} < 105$ GeV	$150 < m_{tj} < 270$ GeV
$t\bar{t}$	65000 ± 9500	38100 ± 5800	2340 ± 430
Single-top	1000 ± 170	400 ± 130	50 ± 9
$t\bar{t}X$	700 ± 130	360 ± 67	54 ± 10
Multijet	400 ± 260	170 ± 110	23 ± 15
W+jets	250 ± 100	59 ± 22	21 ± 9
Z+jets	49 ± 24	10 ± 5	5 ± 3
Diboson	22 ± 11	5 ± 3	2 ± 1
Total prediction	67400 ± 9500	39100 ± 5800	2500 ± 430
Data	57459	32722	2312

uncorrelated such that ν_i and ρ_k follow Poisson distributions (P). This assumption is validated with the test discussed in the next paragraph. A pruning procedure is used to remove systematic uncertainties that have a negligible impact on the measurement. Any systematic uncertainties that change the normalisation of both m_{jj} and m_{tj} by less than 0.1% and cause the event yield in every bin of m_{jj} and m_{tj} to change by less than 0.01% (not including normalisation effects) are not included in the likelihood fit. The effect of the systematic uncertainties on the m_{jj} distribution is assumed to be smooth and hence a smoothing procedure is employed to remove statistical fluctuations from the systematically varied templates. The small number of bins means that no smoothing is needed for m_{tj}. The final term of Eq. (2) contains the prior constraints on the systematic uncertainties, defined such that the β_s parameters are zero and the corresponding Gaussian distributions have width equal to one. A Poisson term is included into the likelihood for each bin in the m_{jj} and m_{tj} distributions to account for statistical uncertainties in the MC simulation; these terms are not displayed in Eq. (2). The top quark mass and its uncertainty are finally extracted from the profile-likelihood ratio [108]:

$$\lambda(m_t) = \frac{L\left(\overline{m_J}^d, \boldsymbol{n}_{m_{jj}}, \boldsymbol{n}_{m_{tj}} | m_t, \hat{\hat{\mu}}, \hat{\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}}\right)}{L\left(\overline{m_J}^d, \boldsymbol{n}_{m_{jj}}, \boldsymbol{n}_{m_{tj}} | \hat{m}_t, \hat{\mu}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}\right)}, \tag{3}$$

where $\hat{m}_t, \hat{\mu}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ are the parameters that maximise the likelihood and $\hat{\hat{\mu}}, \hat{\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}}$ maximise the likelihood for the given value of m_t.

The performance of the likelihood fit is evaluated before examining the data. The assumption that the observables can be treated as uncorrelated is tested by performing pseudo-experiments that reflect the statistical uncertainty and include the statistical correlation between the observables. Each pseudo-experiment is fitted in turn and the RMS of the fitted m_t values is found to agree with the results of pseudo-experiments that ignore the correlations. The mean of the pseudo-experiments is also found to agree with the input m_t. The linearity is tested by injecting pseudo-data into the fit corresponding to the expectation from using combined signal and background samples created from the $t\bar{t}$ MC samples with different m_t values. This test probes whether the m_{jj} and m_{tj} distributions can be treated as independent from m_t and the validity of neglecting the dependence of the background on m_t. The fit linearity is found to be excellent and a residual fit closure uncertainty of 0.07 GeV is assigned to cover deviations from perfect linearity.

The inclusion of m_{jj} and m_{tj} in the fit improves the total expected uncertainty from 1.7 GeV to 0.51 GeV for $m_t = 172.5$ GeV. The largest improvement comes from the reduction of the total JES uncertainty from 1.4 GeV to 0.26 GeV. The inclusion of the m_{jj} distribution also reduces the impact of the ISR and FSR uncertainties on the measurement, where the expected uncertainty contribution reduces from 0.82 GeV in a fit with only $\overline{m_J}$ to 0.14 GeV in the full fit. The inclusion of the m_{tj} distribution reduces the recoil systematic uncertainty from 0.36 GeV in a fit with $\overline{m_J}$ and m_{jj} to 0.08 GeV in the full fit. The inclusion of m_{jj} and m_{tj} increases the statistical uncertainty in m_t from 0.11 GeV to 0.25 GeV, but this increase is more than compensated by the reduction of the total systematic uncertainty in m_t from 1.7 GeV to 0.44 GeV. The robustness of the fit model to $t\bar{t}$ modelling uncertainties is tested by fitting pseudo-data created from the nominal background expectation and either the SHERPA $t\bar{t}$ sample or the POWHEG+PYTHIA $t\bar{t}$ sample with the alternative early resonance decay setting (see Section 2). In each case, the

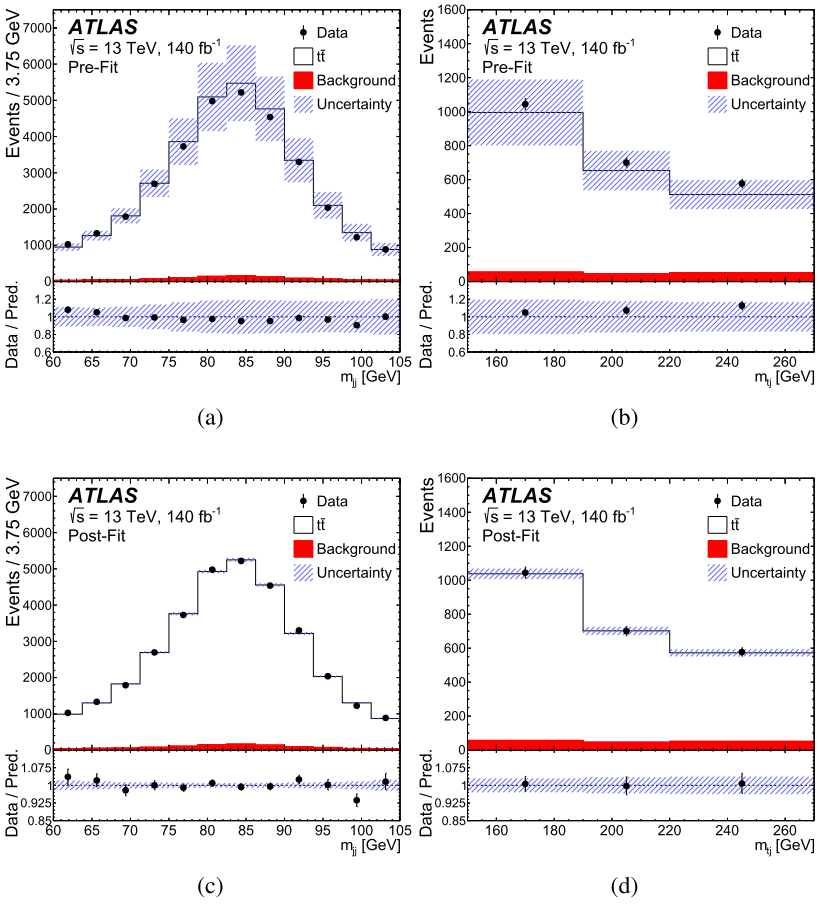


Fig. 2. The pre and post-fit expectations for the m_{jj} and m_{tj} distributions are compared with the data. For the pre-fit case, the $t\bar{t}$ sample corresponds to $m_t = 172.5$ GeV and is scaled to $\mu = 0.856$, which is the ratio of data to theory found in the previous ATLAS cross-section measurement [22]. There is no uncertainty in the pre-fit value of μ. The uncertainty band represents the total uncertainty in the model and is significantly reduced after the fit. The bottom panel reflects the agreement between the data and total prediction, where the error bars show the statistical uncertainty of the data. This includes the systematic and MC statistical uncertainties and for the post-fit case it also includes the uncertainty on μ.

fit returns m_t with a bias smaller than 0.08 GeV, which is significantly smaller than the total expected modelling uncertainty in the measurement (0.27 GeV). This demonstrates the fit is able to adjust to $t\bar{t}$ MC models that are not directly included in the fit model as systematic uncertainties.

The use of the $\overline{m_J}$, rather than the full distribution of m_J means that the pulls and constraints on the NP could be examined by performing a fit to data using only m_{jj} and m_{tj}. The full fit adds one additional observable and one free parameter, meaning the fitted values of the NPs do not change when $\overline{m_J}$ is added to the fit of m_{jj} and m_{tj}. The value of $\overline{m_J}$ in data was blinded with a random offset until the full fit model was finalised. The pre-fit distributions for m_{jj} and m_{tj} are compared with the data in Figs. 2(a) and 2(b) and the corresponding post-fit distributions are shown in Figs. 2(c) and 2(d). The $t\bar{t}$ normalisation factor is found to be $\mu = 0.87 \pm 0.09$, in good agreement with the results of the dedicated cross-section measurement [22]. The model is seen to provide a good description of the data, with a goodness-of-fit probability of 0.36 obtained using the saturated model [109] and the fit improves the agreement in the shape of the observables. The fitted values for the NPs with the largest contributions to the total uncertainty m_t are displayed in Fig. 3. No pulls beyond one standard deviation are observed, while some NPs are constrained, indicating the fit provides valuable information about the systematic uncertainties. The parton shower and hadronisation systematic uncertainty has a large effect on the m_{jj} distribution, which results in a significant constraint on the corresponding NP. As this uncertainty encompasses more than one physics effect, propagating the constraint from m_{jj} to m_J and m_{tj} is avoided by decorrelating

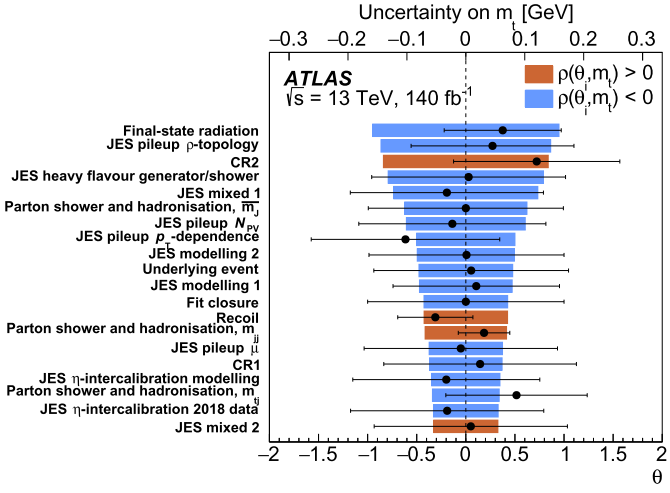


Fig. 3. The contribution of individual NPs, θ, to the total uncertainty in m_t is shown by the coloured bars and can be read off using the upper x-axis. The red (blue) coloured bars represent NPs that have a positive (negative) correlation with m_t and only NPs that have a contribution to the uncertainty in m_t of more than 0.05 GeV are shown. The fitted values and post-fit uncertainties for these NPs are shown by the points, which refer to the lower x-axis. All modelling uncertainties displayed in the figure correspond to uncertainties in the $t\bar{t}$ process.

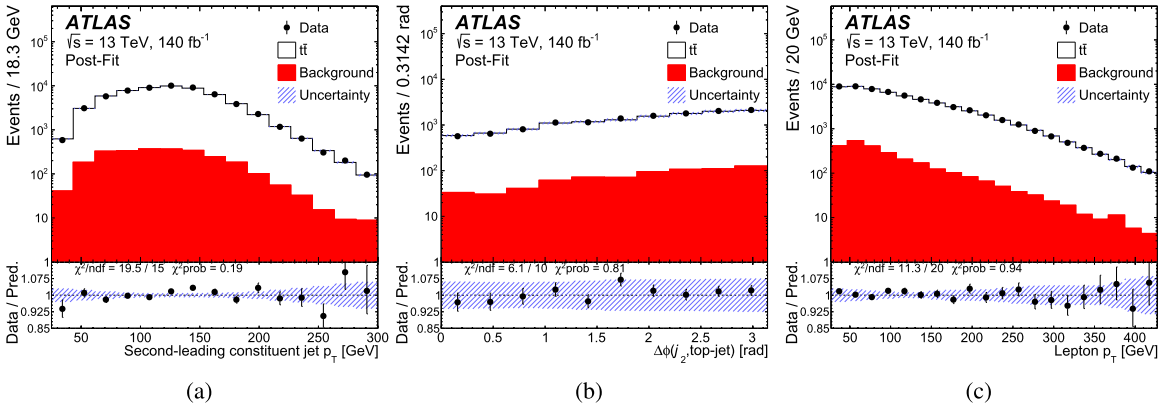


Fig. 4. The distributions of (a) the p_{T} of the second-leading constituent inside the top-jet, (b) the $\Delta\phi$ between the second-leading additional jet and top-jet (for events including at least two additional jets), and (c) the selected lepton p_{T} are compared with the prediction of the post-fit model. These distributions do not include the overflow of events that can satisfy the event selection of Section 3. The uncertainty band includes the effect of the systematic uncertainties, including the post-fit correlations and constraints. The bottom panel reflects the agreement between the data and total prediction, where the error bars show the statistical uncertainty of the data. Values of χ^2 and the number of degrees of freedom (ndf) are provided for each distribution.

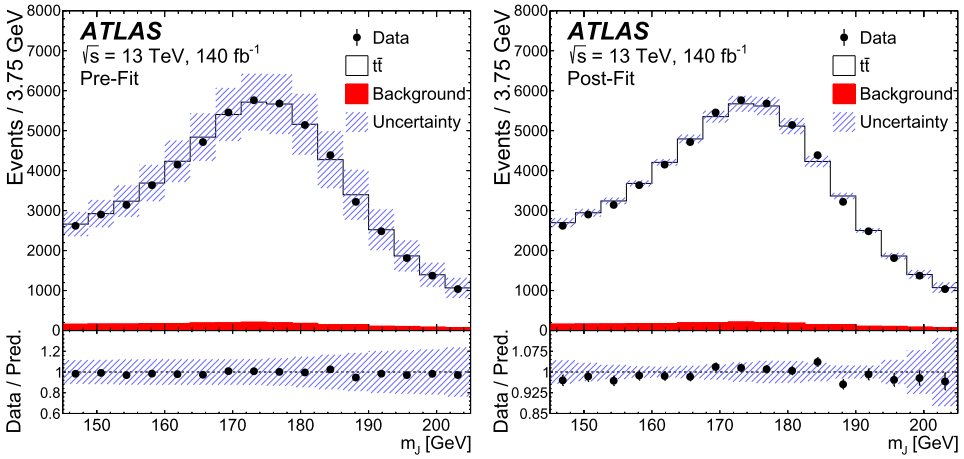


Fig. 5. The (a) pre-fit and (b) post-fit expectations for the m_J distribution are compared with the data. The fit does not contain the distribution of m_J, but only the value of $\overline{m_J}$. The distribution is shown to illustrate the agreement between data and prediction. For the pre-fit case, the $t\bar{t}$ sample corresponds to $m_t = 172.5$ GeV and is scaled to $\mu = 0.856$, which is the ratio of data to theory found in the previous ATLAS cross-section measurement [22]. There is no uncertainty in the pre-fit value of μ or m_t. The uncertainty band represents the total uncertainty in the model and is significantly reduced after the fit. The bottom panel reflects the agreement between the data and total prediction, where the error bars show the statistical uncertainty of the data. This includes the systematic and MC statistical uncertainties and for the post-fit case it also includes the uncertainty in μ and m_t.

this systematic uncertainty between the observables. The post-fit values for this systematic uncertainty for the three observables all agree with each other, indicating that the nominal model based on PYTHIA agrees consistently with data across all three observables. The central value of m_t is stable with respect to this choice, changing from the nominal result by 0.06 GeV if the fit is performed with a single correlated parton shower and hadronisation NP. The recoil NP is constrained due to the inclusion of the m_{tj} distribution. The fitted value is found to be in excellent agreement with the model in the nominal PYTHIA sample and the uncertainty in the NP is significantly reduced in the fit. Moderate pulls and constraints are obtained on several NPs associated with JES uncertainties, which is expected as m_{jj} is directly sensitive to the JES. The NP for FSR is also constrained, which is expected as this physics effect causes changes in the shape of the m_{jj} distribution.

To validate the robustness of the fit, the constrained model is propagated to control observables that are not strongly correlated with m_J, m_{jj} or m_{tj}. Three example distributions, the p_{T} of the second-leading constituent inside the top-jet, the $\Delta\phi$ between the second-leading additional jet and top-jet (for events including at least two additional jets), and the p_{T} of the selected lepton, are shown in Fig. 4. The p_{T} of the lepton and the second-leading constituent inside the top-jet probe the modelling of the semi-leptonically decaying top quark and the top-jet, respectively, and the $\Delta\phi$ variable probes the modelling of the parton shower by considering the second additional jet. A χ^2 test is performed between the data and the model for each observable, where the covariance matrix includes the effect of the constrained systematic uncertainties. Good agreement is observed between the constrained model and the data; all tested observables have p-values greater than 0.19. The stability of the result is tested by splitting the data used in the $\overline{m_J}$ observable into two in three different ways: according to the data taking period (2015–2017, 2018), the lepton flavour or the number of constituent jets inside the top-jet. In each case, a fit to data is performed with two m_t parameters and the fitted values are found to be consistent within one standard deviation, accounting for correlations in the statistical test.

The mean of the top-jet mass in data is observed to be 172.46 GeV and the profile-likelihood fit gives $m_t = 172.95 \pm 0.53$ GeV. To visualise the agreement between data and expectation, the fit model is propagated to the binned distribution of m_J and the pre- and post-fit predictions

Table 2
Grouped breakdown of the uncertainty sources contributing to the total uncertainty in m_t. Each group's contribution is equal to the sum in quadrature of the individual uncertainty contributions. 'Radiation' refers to the sources relating to the modelling of ISR and FSR for $t\bar{t}$ events. Those associated with ISR are the setting of h_{damp} and the use of the Var3c eigentune of the PYTHIA 8 A14 tune. 'Higher-order corrections' refers to sources relating to the μ_f and μ_r scales and the NNLO reweighting. Systematic uncertainties related to the modelling of background processes are contained within the 'Background modelling' group.

Source	Uncertainty [GeV]
JES	± 0.29
Radiation (ISR and FSR)	± 0.17
Colour reconnection (CR1 and CR2)	± 0.15
JES heavy flavour	± 0.14
Parton shower and hadronisation model	± 0.14
JER	± 0.10
MC statistics	± 0.08
Underlying event	± 0.08
Recoil	± 0.07
Fit closure	± 0.07
Background modelling	± 0.05
Matrix element matching ($p_{\text{T}}^{\text{hard}} = 1$)	± 0.04
b-tagging	± 0.04
Higher-order corrections	± 0.02
$E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$	± 0.02
Pileup	± 0.01
JVT	± 0.01
PDF	± 0.01
Leptons	± 0.01
Luminosity	< 0.01
Total statistical	± 0.27
Total systematic	± 0.46
Total	± 0.53

are compared with the data in Fig. 5. The total uncertainty is slightly larger than expected (0.51 GeV) mainly due to the observed number of events being smaller than the expected number. The breakdown of the uncertainties in different categories is shown in Table 2, where the contribution of each systematic uncertainty is extracted from the covariance matrix of the fit [110] and the total uncertainty per-category is the sum in quadrature of the effect of each uncertainty in the category. The statistical uncertainty is then calculated from the quadratic difference between the total uncertainty and the total systematic uncertainty (which itself is the sum in quadrature of every systematic uncertainty). The contributions to the total systematic uncertainty from experimental and theoretical sources are quite similar (0.36 and 0.28 GeV, respectively) and the uncertainty category with the largest impact is the JES. The flavour uncertainties for the JES are reduced compared with previous ATLAS measurements thanks to the improved uncertainty treatment detailed in Refs. [23,24]. The impact of the most important individual systematic uncertainties is shown in Fig. 3. Several aspects of the simulation of $t\bar{t}$ events are important systematic uncertainties, including the CR model, the parton shower and hadronisation model and the modelling of additional radiation.

A comparison of this result with other m_t measurements is shown in Fig. 6. This new measurement is found to be in excellent agreement with previous ATLAS measurements, the ATLAS+CMS Run 1 combination [11] and the CMS measurement using boosted top quarks [19], while it is 1.2 GeV higher than the most precise CMS measurement performed with Run 2 data [16]. Precisely quantifying the level of agreement between the results displayed in Fig. 6 requires a detailed estimate of the correlation between each pair of measurements, which is beyond the scope of this Letter.

7. Conclusion

The top quark mass is measured using $t\bar{t}$ events in the lepton-plus-jets decay channel where the hadronically decaying top quark has high transverse momentum. The dataset used corresponds to 140 fb^{-1} of pp collisions at 13 TeV recorded with the ATLAS detector at the LHC. The boosted hadronically decaying top quark is reconstructed as a large-radius jet and the mean of the invariant mass of the jet is chosen as the observable with high sensitivity to the top quark mass. Additional observables, m_{jj} and m_{tj}, are included into the likelihood fit to reduce the impact of the systematic uncertainties, in particular those associated with the jet energy scale and the modelling of the recoil in the top quark decay. The top quark mass is measured to be $m_t = 172.95 \pm 0.53$ GeV, which represents a significant improvement on all previous individual ATLAS measurements and is in good agreement with other top quark mass measurements. The measurement also achieves an improved precision compared to previous measurements in events with boosted top quarks made by the CMS Collaboration. The largest systematic uncertainties stem from the understanding of the jet energy scale and the modelling of $t\bar{t}$ events. The measurement has a non-negligible statistical uncertainty, which indicates that future measurements in the boosted phase space with larger LHC datasets could reach an improved precision.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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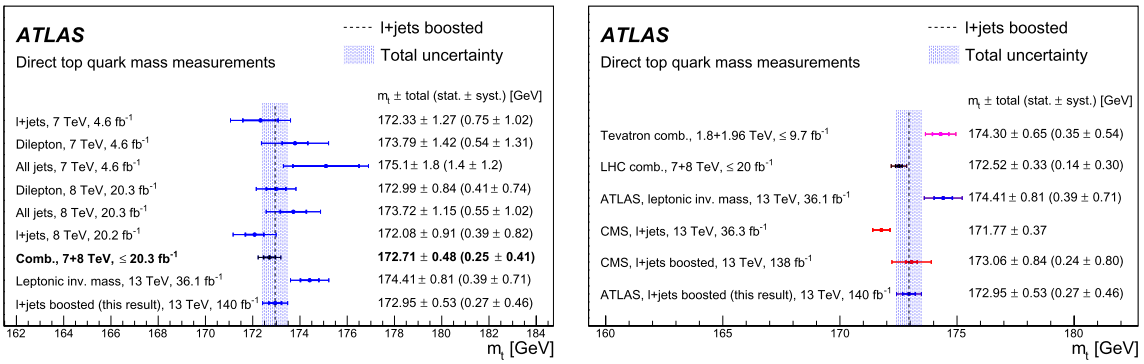


Fig. 6. The measurement of the top quark mass in this Letter is compared with (a) other ATLAS measurements and (b) other precise direct determinations of m_t. The ATLAS combination displayed in bold in (a) is a combination of all the results listed above it. The dashed line and shaded band represent the central value and uncertainty of this measurement, which is also shown as the final measurement point in each plot.

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Data availability

The data for this manuscript are not available. The values in the plots and tables associated to this article are stored in HEPDATA (https://hepdata.cedar.ac.uk).

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The ATLAS Collaboration

G. Aad [104], E. Aakvaag [17], B. Abbott [123], S. Abdelhameed [119a], K. Abeling [55], N.J. Abicht [49], S.H. Abidi [30], M. Aboelela [45], A. Aboulhorma [36e], H. Abramowicz [157], Y. Abulaiti [120], B.S. Acharya [69a,69b,p], A. Ackermann [63a], C. Adam Bourdarios [4], L. Adamczyk [86a], S.V. Addepalli [149], M.J. Addison [103], J. Adelman [118], A. Adiguzel [22c], T. Adye [137], A.A. Affolder [139], Y. Afik [40], M.N. Agaras [13], A. Aggarwal [102], C. Agheorghiesei [28c], F. Ahmadov [39,af], S. Ahuja [97], X. Ai [143b], G. Aielli [76a,76b], A. Aikot [169], M. Ait Tamlihat [36e], B. Aitbenchikh [36a], M. Akbiyik [102], T.P.A. Åkesson [100], A.V. Akimov [151], D. Akiyama [174], N.N. Akolkar [25], S. Aktas [22a], G.L. Alberghi [24b], J. Albert [171], P. Albicocco [53], G.L. Albouy [60], S. Alderweireldt [52], Z.L. Alegria [124], M. Aleksa [37], I.N. Aleksandrov [39], C. Alexa [28b], T. Alexopoulos [10], F. Alfonsi [24b], M. Algren [56], M. Alhroob [173], B. Ali [135], H.M.J. Ali [93,y], S. Ali [32], S.W. Alibocus [94], M. Aliev [34c], G. Alimonti [71a], W. Alkakhi [55], C. Allaire [66], B.M.M. Allbrooke [152], J.S. Allen [103], J.F. Allen [52], P.P. Allport [21], A. Aloisio [72a,72b], F. Alonso [92], C. Alpigiani [142], Z.M.K. Alsolami [93], A. Alvarez Fernandez [102], M. Alves Cardoso [56], M.G. Alviggi [72a,72b], M. Aly [103], Y. Amaral Coutinho [83b], A. Ambler [106], C. Amelung [37], M. Amerl [103], C.G. Ames [111], D. Amidei [108], B. Amini [54], K. Amirie [161], A. Amirkhanov [39], S.P. Amor Dos Santos [133a], K.R. Amos [169], D. Amperiadou [158], S. An [84], V. Ananiev [128], C. Anastopoulos [145], T. Andeen [11], J.K. Anders [94], A.C. Anderson [59], A. Andreazza [71a,71b], S. Angelidakis [9], A. Angerami [42], A.V. Anisenkov [39], A. Annovi [74a], C. Antel [56], E. Antipov [151], M. Antonelli [53], F. Anulli [75a], M. Aoki [84], T. Aoki [159], M.A. Aparo [152], L. Aperio Bella [48], C. Appelt [157], A. Apyan [27], S.J. Arbiol Val [87], C. Arcangeletti [53], A.T.H. Arce [51],

J-F. Arguin [110], S. Argyropoulos [158], J.-H. Arling [48], O. Arnaez [4], H. Arnold [151], G. Artoni [75a,75b], H. Asada [113], K. Asai [121], S. Asai [159], N.A. Asbah [37], R.A. Ashby Pickering [173], A.M. Aslam [97], K. Assamagan [30], R. Astalos [29a], K.S.V. Astrand [100], S. Atashi [165], R.J. Atkin [34a], H. Atmani [36f], P.A. Atmasiddha [131], K. Augsten [135], A.D. Auriol [41], V.A. Austrup [103], G. Avolio [37], K. Axiotis [56], G. Azuelos [110,ak], D. Babal [29b], H. Bachacou [138], K. Bachas [158,t], A. Bachiu [35], E. Bachmann [50], M.J. Backes [63a], A. Badea [40], T.M. Baer [108], P. Bagnaia [75a,75b], M. Bahmani [19], D. Bahner [54], K. Bai [126], J.T. Baines [137], L. Baines [96], O.K. Baker [178], E. Bakos [16], D. Bakshi Gupta [8], L.E. Balabram Filho [83b], V. Balakrishnan [123], R. Balasubramanian [4], E.M. Baldin [38], P. Balek [86a], E. Ballabene [24b,24a], F. Balli [138], L.M. Baltes [63a], W.K. Balunas [33], J. Balz [102], I. Bamwidhi [119b], E. Banas [87], M. Bandieramonte [132], A. Bandyopadhyay [25], S. Bansal [25], L. Barak [157], M. Barakat [48], E.L. Barberio [107], D. Barberis [18b], M. Barbero [104], M.Z. Barel [117], T. Barillari [112], M-S. Barisits [37], T. Barklow [149], P. Baron [125], D.A. Baron Moreno [103], A. Baroncelli [62], A.J. Barr [129], J.D. Barr [98], F. Barreiro [101], J. Barreiro Guimarães da Costa [14], M.G. Barros Teixeira [133a], S. Barsov [38], F. Bartels [63a], R. Bartoldus [149], A.E. Barton [93], P. Bartos [29a], A. Basan [102], M. Baselga [49], S. Bashiri [87], A. Bassalat [66,b], M.J. Basso [162a], S. Bataju [45], R. Bate [170], R.L. Bates [59], S. Batlamous [101], M. Battaglia [139], D. Battulga [19], M. Bauce [75a,75b], M. Bauer [79], P. Bauer [25], L.T. Bayer [48], L.T. Bazzano Hurrell [31], J.B. Beacham [112], T. Beau [130], J.Y. Beaucamp [92], P.H. Beauchemin [164], P. Bechtle [25], H.P. Beck [20,s], K. Becker [173], A.J. Beddall [82], V.A. Bednyakov [39], C.P. Bee [151], L.J. Beemster [16], M. Begalli [83d], M. Begel [30], J.K. Behr [48], J.F. Beirer [37], F. Beisiegel [25], M. Belfkir [119b], G. Bella [157], L. Bellagamba [24b], A. Bellerive [35], P. Bellos [21], K. Beloborodov [38], D. Benchekroun [36a], F. Bendebba [36a], Y. Benhammou [157], K.C. Benkendorfer [61], L. Beresford [48], M. Beretta [53], E. Bergeaas Kuutmann [167], N. Berger [4], B. Bergmann [135], J. Beringer [18a], G. Bernardi [5], C. Bernius [149], F.U. Bernlochner [25], F. Bernon [37], A. Berrocal Guardia [13], T. Berry [97], P. Berta [136], A. Berthold [50], R. Bertrand [104], S. Bethke [112], A. Betti [75a,75b], A.J. Bevan [96], L. Bezio [56], N.K. Bhalla [54], S. Bharthuar [112], S. Bhatta [151], P. Bhattarai [149], Z.M. Bhatti [120], K.D. Bhide [54], V.S. Bhopatkar [124], R.M. Bianchi [132], G. Bianco [24b,24a], O. Biebel [111], M. Biglietti [77a], C.S. Billingsley [45], Y. Bimgdi [36f], M. Bindi [55], A. Bingham [177], A. Bingul [22b], C. Bini [75a,75b], G.A. Bird [33], M. Birman [175], M. Biros [136], S. Biryukov [152], T. Bisanz [49], E. Bisceglie [24b,24a], J.P. Biswal [137], D. Biswas [147], I. Bloch [48], A. Blue [59], U. Blumenschein [96], J. Blumenthal [102], V.S. Bobrovnikov [39], M. Boehler [54], B. Boehm [172], D. Bogavac [37], A.G. Bogdanchikov [38], L.S. Boggia [130], V. Boisvert [97], P. Bokan [37], T. Bold [86a], M. Bomben [5], M. Bona [96], M. Boonekamp [138], A.G. Borbély [59], I.S. Bordulev [38], G. Borissov [93], D. Bortoletto [129], D. Boscherini [24b], M. Bosman [13], K. Bouaouda [36a], N. Bouchhar [169], L. Boudet [4], J. Boudreau [132], E.V. Bouhova-Thacker [93], D. Boumediene [41], R. Bouquet [57b,57a], A. Boveia [122], J. Boyd [37], D. Boye [30], I.R. Boyko [39], L. Bozianu [56], J. Bracinik [21], N. Brahimi [4], G. Brandt [177], O. Brandt [33], B. Brau [105], J.E. Brau [126], R. Brener [175], L. Brenner [117], R. Brenner [167], S. Bressler [175], G. Brianti [78a,78b], D. Britton [59], D. Britzger [112], I. Brock [25], R. Brock [109], G. Brooijmans [42], A.J. Brooks [68], E.M. Brooks [162b], E. Brost [30], L.M. Brown [171,162a], L.E. Bruce [61], T.L. Bruckler [129], P.A. Bruckman de Renstrom [87], B. Brüers [48], A. Bruni [24b], G. Bruni [24b], D. Brunner [47a,47b], M. Bruschi [24b], N. Bruscino [75a,75b], T. Buanes [17], Q. Buat [142], D. Buchin [112], A.G. Buckley [59], O. Bulekov [82], B.A. Bullard [149], S. Burdin [94], C.D. Burgard [49], A.M. Burger [37], B. Burghgrave [8], O. Burlayenko [54], J. Burleson [168], J.T.P. Burr [33], J.C. Burzynski [148], E.L. Busch [42], V. Büscher [102], P.J. Bussey [59], J.M. Butler [26], C.M. Buttar [59], J.M. Butterworth [98], W. Buttinger [137],

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S. Todorova-Nova [136], S. Todt [50], L. Toffolin [69a,69c], M. Togawa [84], J. Tojo [90], S. Tokár [29a], O. Toldaiev [68], G. Tolkachev [104], M. Tomoto [84,113], L. Tompkins [149,q], E. Torrence [126], H. Torres [91], E. Torró Pastor [169], M. Toscani [31], C. Tosciri [40], M. Tost [11], D.R. Tovey [145], T. Trefzger [172], P.M. Tricarico [13], A. Tricoli [30], I.M. Trigger [162a], S. Trincaz-Duvoid [130], D.A. Trischuk [27], A. Tropina [39], L. Truong [34c], M. Trzebinski [87], A. Trzupek [87], F. Tsai [151], M. Tsai [108], A. Tsiamis [158], P.V. Tsiareshka [39], S. Tsigaridas [162a], A. Tsirigotis [158,w], V. Tsiskaridze [161], E.G. Tskhadadze [155a], M. Tsopoulou [158], Y. Tsujikawa [89], I.I. Tsukerman [38], V. Tsulaia [18a], S. Tsuno [84], K. Tsuri [121], D. Tsybychev [151], Y. Tu [64b], A. Tudorache [28b], V. Tudorache [28b], S. Turchikhin [57b,57a], I. Turk Cakir [3a], R. Turra [71a], T. Turtuvshin [39,ae], P.M. Tuts [42], S. Tzamarias [158,e], E. Tzovara [102], Y. Uematsu [84], F. Ukegawa [163], P.A. Ulloa Poblete [140c,140b], E.N. Umaka [30], G. Unal [37], A. Undrus [30], G. Unel [165], J. Urban [29b], P. Urrejola [140a], G. Usai [8], R. Ushioda [160], M. Usman [110], F. Ustuner [52], Z. Uysal [82], V. Vacek [135], B. Vachon [106], T. Vafeiadis [37], A. Vaitkus [98], C. Valderanis [111], E. Valdes Santurio [47a,47b], M. Valente [162a], S. Valentinetti [24b,24a], A. Valero [169], E. Valiente Moreno [169], A. Vallier [91], J.A. Valls Ferrer [169], D.R. Van Arneman [117], T.R. Van Daalen [142], A. Van Der Graaf [49], H.Z. Van Der Schyf [34g], P. Van Gemmeren [6], M. Van Rijnbach [37], S. Van Stroud [98], I. Van Vulpen [117], P. Vana [136], M. Vanadia [76a,76b], U.M. Vande Voorde [150], W. Vandelli [37], E.R. Vandewall [124], D. Vannicola [157], L. Vannoli [53], R. Vari [75a], E.W. Varnes [7], C. Varni [18b], D. Varouchas [66], L. Varriale [169], K.E. Varvell [153], M.E. Vasile [28b], L. Vaslin [84], M.D. Vassilev [149], A. Vasyukov [39], L.M. Vaughan [124], R. Vavricka [136], T. Vazquez Schroeder [13], J. Veatch [32], V. Vecchio [103], M.J. Veen [105], I. Veliscek [30], I. Velkovska [95], L.M. Veloce [161], F. Veloso [133a,133c], S. Veneziano [75a], A. Ventura [70a,70b], S. Ventura Gonzalez [138], A. Verbytskyi [112], M. Verducci [74a,74b], C. Vergis [96], M. Verissimo De Araujo [83b], W. Verkerke [117], J.C. Vermeulen [117], C. Vernieri [149], M. Vessella [165], M.C. Vetterli [148,ak], A. Vgenopoulos [102], N. Viaux Maira [140f], T. Vickey [145], O.E. Vickey Boeriu [145], G.H.A. Viehhauser [129], L. Vigani [63b], M. Vigl [112], M. Villa [24b,24a], M. Villaplana Perez [169], E.M. Villhauer [52], E. Vilucchi [53], M.G. Vincter [35], A. Visibile [117], C. Vittori [37], I. Vivarelli [24b,24a], E. Voevodina [112], F. Vogel [111], J.C. Voigt [50], P. Vokac [135], Yu. Volkotrub [86b], E. Von Toerne [25], B. Vormwald [37], K. Vorobev [51], M. Vos [169], K. Voss [147], M. Vozak [37], L. Vozdecky [123], N. Vranjes [16], M. Vranjes Milosavljevic [16], M. Vreeswijk [117], N.K. Vu [144b,144a], R. Vuillermet [37], O. Vujinovic [102], I. Vukotic [40], I.K. Vyas [35], J.F. Wack [33], S. Wada [163], C. Wagner [149], J.M. Wagner [18a], W. Wagner [177], S. Wahdan [177], H. Wahlberg [92], C.H. Waits [123], J. Walder [137], R. Walker [111], W. Walkowiak [147], A. Wall [131], E.J. Wallin [100], T. Wamorkar [18a], A.Z. Wang [139], C. Wang [102], C. Wang [11], H. Wang [18a], J. Wang [64c], P. Wang [103], P. Wang [98], R. Wang [61], R. Wang [6], S.M. Wang [154], S. Wang [14], T. Wang [62], T. Wang [62], W.T. Wang [80], W. Wang [14], X. Wang [168], X. Wang [144a], X. Wang [48], Y. Wang [114a], Y. Wang [62], Z. Wang [108], Z. Wang [144b,51,144a], Z. Wang [108], C. Wanotayaroj [84], A. Warburton [106], A.L. Warnerbring [147], N. Warrack [59], S. Waterhouse [97], A.T. Watson [21], H. Watson [52], M.F. Watson [21], E. Watton [59], G. Watts [142], B.M. Waugh [98], J.M. Webb [54], C. Weber [30], H.A. Weber [19], M.S. Weber [20], S.M. Weber [63a], C. Wei [62], Y. Wei [54], A.R. Weidberg [129], E.J. Weik [120], J. Weingarten [49], C. Weiser [54], C.J. Wells [48], T. Wenaus [30], B. Wendland [49], T. Wengler [37], N.S. Wenke [112], N. Wermes [25], M. Wessels [63a], A.M. Wharton [93], A.S. White [61], A. White [8], M.J. White [1], D. Whiteson [165], L. Wickremasinghe [127], W. Wiedenmann [176], M. Wielers [137], R. Wierda [150], C. Wiglesworth [43], H.G. Wilkens [37], J.J.H. Wilkinson [33], D.M. Williams [42], H.H. Williams [131], S. Williams [33],

S. Willocq [105], B.J. Wilson [103], D.J. Wilson [103], P.J. Windischhofer [40], F.I. Winkel [31], F. Winklmeier [126], B.T. Winter [54], M. Wittgen [149], M. Wobisch [99], T. Wojtkowski [60], Z. Wolffs [117], J. Wollrath [37], M.W. Wolter [87], H. Wolters [133a,133c], M.C. Wong [139], E.L. Woodward [42], S.D. Worm [48], B.K. Wosiek [87], K.W. Woźniak [87], S. Wozniewski [55], K. Wraight [59], C. Wu [161], C. Wu [21], M. Wu [114b], M. Wu [116], S.L. Wu [176], S. Wu [14], X. Wu [56], X. Wu [62], Y. Wu [62], Z. Wu [4], J. Wuerzinger [112,ai], T.R. Wyatt [103], B.M. Wynne [52], S. Xella [43], L. Xia [114a], M. Xia [15], M. Xie [62], A. Xiong [126], J. Xiong [18a], D. Xu [14], H. Xu [62], L. Xu [62], R. Xu [131], T. Xu [108], Y. Xu [142], Z. Xu [52], Z. Xu [114a], B. Yabsley [153], S. Yacoob [34a], Y. Yamaguchi [84], E. Yamashita [159], H. Yamauchi [163], T. Yamazaki [18a], Y. Yamazaki [85], S. Yan [59], Z. Yan [105], H.J. Yang [144a,144b], H.T. Yang [62], S. Yang [62], T. Yang [64c], X. Yang [37], X. Yang [14], Y. Yang [159], Y. Yang [62], W-M. Yao [18a], C.L. Yardley [152], H. Ye [55], J. Ye [14], S. Ye [30], X. Ye [62], Y. Yeh [98], I. Yeletskikh [39], B. Yeo [18b], M.R. Yexley [98], T.P. Yildirim [129], P. Yin [42], K. Yorita [174], C.J.S. Young [37], C. Young [149], N.D. Young [126], Y. Yu [62], J. Yuan [14,114c], M. Yuan [108], R. Yuan [144b,144a], L. Yue [98], M. Zaazoua [62], B. Zabinski [87], I. Zahir [36a], A. Zaio [57b,57a], Z.K. Zak [87], T. Zakareishvili [169], S. Zambito [56], J.A. Zamora Saa [140d], J. Zang [159], D. Zanzi [54], R. Zanzottera [71a,71b], O. Zaplatilek [135], C. Zeitnitz [177], H. Zeng [14], J.C. Zeng [168], D.T. Zenger Jr [27], O. Zenin [38], T. Ženiš [29a], S. Zenz [96], D. Zerwas [66], M. Zhai [14,114c], D.F. Zhang [145], J. Zhang [143a], J. Zhang [6], K. Zhang [14,114c], L. Zhang [62], L. Zhang [114a], P. Zhang [14,114c], R. Zhang [176], S. Zhang [91], T. Zhang [159], X. Zhang [144a], Y. Zhang [142], Y. Zhang [98], Y. Zhang [62], Y. Zhang [114a], Z. Zhang [18a], Z. Zhang [143a], Z. Zhang [66], H. Zhao [142], T. Zhao [143a], Y. Zhao [35], Z. Zhao [62], Z. Zhao [62], A. Zhemchugov [39], J. Zheng [114a], K. Zheng [168], X. Zheng [62], Z. Zheng [149], D. Zhong [168], B. Zhou [108], H. Zhou [7], N. Zhou [144a], Y. Zhou [15], Y. Zhou [114a], Y. Zhou [7], C.G. Zhu [143a], J. Zhu [108], X. Zhu [144b], Y. Zhu [144a], Y. Zhu [62], X. Zhuang [14], K. Zhukov [68], N.I. Zimine [39], J. Zinsser [63b], M. Ziolkowski [147], L. Živković [16], A. Zoccoli [24b,24a], K. Zoch [61], T.G. Zorbas [145], O. Zormpa [46], W. Zou [42], L. Zwalinski [37],

[1] *Department of Physics, University of Adelaide, Adelaide; Australia*
[2] *Department of Physics, University of Alberta, Edmonton AB; Canada*
[3] [(a)] *Department of Physics, Ankara University, Ankara;* [(b)] *Division of Physics, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara; Türkiye*
[4] *LAPP, Université Savoie Mont Blanc, CNRS/IN2P3, Annecy; France*
[5] *APC, Université Paris Cité, CNRS/IN2P3, Paris; France*
[6] *High Energy Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne IL; United States of America*
[7] *Department of Physics, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ; United States of America*
[8] *Department of Physics, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington TX; United States of America*
[9] *Physics Department, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens; Greece*
[10] *Physics Department, National Technical University of Athens, Zografou; Greece*
[11] *Department of Physics, University of Texas at Austin, Austin TX; United States of America*
[12] *Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku; Azerbaijan*
[13] *Institut de Física 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] *Institute of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade; Serbia*
[17] *Department for Physics and Technology, University of Bergen, Bergen; Norway*
[18] [(a)] *Physics Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley CA;* [(b)] *University of California, Berkeley CA; United States of America*
[19] *Institut für Physik, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Berlin; Germany*
[20] *Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics and Laboratory for High Energy Physics, University of Bern, Bern; Switzerland*
[21] *School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, Birmingham; United Kingdom*
[22] [(a)] *Department of Physics, Bogazici University, Istanbul;* [(b)] *Department of Physics Engineering, Gaziantep University, Gaziantep;* [(c)] *Department of Physics, Istanbul University, Istanbul; Türkiye*
[23] [(a)] *Facultad de Ciencias y Centro de Investigaciónes, Universidad Antonio Nariño, Bogotá;* [(b)] *Departamento de Física, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá; Colombia*
[24] [(a)] *Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia A. Righi, Università di Bologna, Bologna;* [(b)] *INFN Sezione di Bologna; Italy*
[25] *Physikalisches Institut, Universität Bonn, Bonn; Germany*
[26] *Department of Physics, Boston University, Boston MA; United States of America*
[27] *Department of Physics, Brandeis University, Waltham MA; United States of America*
[28] [(a)] *Transilvania University of Brasov, Brasov;* [(b)] *Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Bucharest;* [(c)] *Department of Physics, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Iasi;* [(d)] *National Institute for Research and Development of Isotopic and Molecular Technologies, Physics Department, Cluj-Napoca;* [(e)] *National University of Science and Technology Politechnica, Bucharest;* [(f)] *West University in Timisoara, Timisoara;* [(g)] *Faculty of Physics, University of Bucharest, Bucharest; Romania*
[29] [(a)] *Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Comenius University, Bratislava;* [(b)] *Department of Subnuclear Physics, Institute of Experimental Physics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Kosice; Slovak Republic*
[30] *Physics Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton NY; United States of America*
[31] *Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Departamento de Física, y CONICET, Instituto de Física de Buenos Aires (IFIBA), Buenos Aires; Argentina*

[32] California State University, CA; United States of America
[33] Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Cambridge; United Kingdom
[34] [(a)] Department of Physics, University of Cape Town, Cape Town; [(b)] iThemba Labs, Western Cape; [(c)] Department of Mechanical Engineering Science, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg; [(d)] National Institute of Physics, University of the Philippines Diliman (Philippines); [(e)] University of South Africa, Department of Physics, Pretoria; [(f)] University of Zululand, KwaDlangezwa; [(g)] School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg; South Africa
[35] Department of Physics, Carleton University, Ottawa ON; Canada
[36] [(a)] Faculté des Sciences Ain Chock, Université Hassan II de Casablanca; [(b)] Faculté des Sciences, Université Ibn-Tofail, Kénitra; [(c)] Faculté des Sciences Semlalia, Université Cadi Ayyad, LPHEA-Marrakech; [(d)] LPMR, Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohamed Premier, Oujda; [(e)] Faculté des sciences, Université Mohammed V, Rabat; [(f)] Institute of Applied Physics, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Ben Guerir; Morocco
[37] CERN, Geneva; Switzerland
[38] Affiliated with an institute formerly covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN
[39] Affiliated with an international laboratory covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN
[40] Enrico Fermi Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago IL; United States of America
[41] LPC, Université Clermont Auvergne, CNRS/IN2P3, Clermont-Ferrand; France
[42] Nevis Laboratory, Columbia University, Irvington NY; United States of America
[43] Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen; Denmark
[44] [(a)] Dipartimento di Fisica, Università della Calabria, Rende; [(b)] INFN Gruppo Collegato di Cosenza, Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati; Italy
[45] Physics Department, Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX; United States of America
[46] National Centre for Scientific Research "Demokritos", Agia Paraskevi; Greece
[47] [(a)] Department of Physics, Stockholm University; [(b)] Oskar Klein Centre, Stockholm; Sweden
[48] Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY, Hamburg and Zeuthen; Germany
[49] Fakultät Physik, Technische Universität Dortmund, Dortmund; Germany
[50] Institut für Kern- und Teilchenphysik, Technische Universität Dresden, Dresden; Germany
[51] Department of Physics, Duke University, Durham NC; United States of America
[52] SUPA - School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh; United Kingdom
[53] INFN e Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati; Italy
[54] Physikalisches Institut, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Freiburg; Germany
[55] II. Physikalisches Institut, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Göttingen; Germany
[56] Département de Physique Nucléaire et Corpusculaire, Université de Genève, Genève; Switzerland
[57] [(a)] Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Genova, Genova; [(b)] INFN Sezione di Genova; Italy
[58] II. Physikalisches Institut, Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, Giessen; Germany
[59] SUPA - School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Glasgow, Glasgow; United Kingdom
[60] LPSC, Université Grenoble Alpes, CNRS/IN2P3, Grenoble INP, Grenoble; France
[61] Laboratory for Particle Physics and Cosmology, Harvard University, Cambridge MA; United States of America
[62] Department of Modern Physics and State Key Laboratory of Particle Detection and Electronics, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei; China
[63] [(a)] Kirchhoff-Institut für Physik, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg; [(b)] Physikalisches Institut, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg; Germany
[64] [(a)] Department of Physics, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong; [(b)] Department of Physics, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong; [(c)] Department of Physics and Institute for Advanced Study, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong; China
[65] Department of Physics, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu; Taiwan
[66] IJCLab, Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS/IN2P3, 91405, Orsay; France
[67] Centro Nacional de Microelectrónica (IMB-CNM-CSIC), Barcelona; Spain
[68] Department of Physics, Indiana University, Bloomington IN; United States of America
[69] [(a)] INFN Gruppo Collegato di Udine, Sezione di Trieste, Udine; [(b)] ICTP, Trieste; [(c)] Dipartimento Politecnico di Ingegneria e Architettura, Università di Udine, Udine; Italy
[70] [(a)] INFN Sezione di Lecce; [(b)] Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica, Università del Salento, Lecce; Italy
[71] [(a)] INFN Sezione di Milano; [(b)] Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Milano, Milano; Italy
[72] [(a)] INFN Sezione di Napoli; [(b)] Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Napoli, Napoli; Italy
[73] [(a)] INFN Sezione di Pavia; [(b)] Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Pavia, Pavia; Italy
[74] [(a)] INFN Sezione di Pisa; [(b)] Dipartimento di Fisica E. Fermi, Università di Pisa, Pisa; Italy
[75] [(a)] INFN Sezione di Roma; [(b)] Dipartimento di Fisica, Sapienza Università di Roma, Roma; Italy
[76] [(a)] INFN Sezione di Roma Tor Vergata; [(b)] Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Roma; Italy
[77] [(a)] INFN Sezione di Roma Tre; [(b)] Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica, Università Roma Tre, Roma; Italy
[78] [(a)] INFN-TIFPA; [(b)] Università degli Studi di Trento, Trento; Italy
[79] Universität Innsbruck, Department of Astro and Particle Physics, Innsbruck; Austria
[80] University of Iowa, Iowa City IA; United States of America
[81] Department of Physics and Astronomy, Iowa State University, Ames IA; United States of America
[82] Istinye University, Sariyer, Istanbul; Türkiye
[83] [(a)] Departamento de Engenharia Elétrica, Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora (UFJF), Juiz de Fora; [(b)] Universidade Federal do Rio De Janeiro COPPE/EE/IF, Rio de Janeiro; [(c)] Instituto de Física, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo; [(d)] Rio de Janeiro State University, Rio de Janeiro; [(e)] Federal University of Bahia, Bahia; Brazil
[84] KEK, High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, Tsukuba; Japan
[85] Graduate School of Science, Kobe University, Kobe; Japan
[86] [(a)] AGH University of Krakow, Faculty of Physics and Applied Computer Science, Krakow; [(b)] Marian Smoluchowski Institute of Physics, Jagiellonian University, Krakow; Poland
[87] Institute of Nuclear Physics Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow; Poland
[88] [(a)] Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi; [(b)] University of Sharjah, Sharjah; United Arab Emirates
[89] Faculty of Science, Kyoto University, Kyoto; Japan
[90] Research Center for Advanced Particle Physics and Department of Physics, Kyushu University, Fukuoka; Japan
[91] L2IT, Université de Toulouse, CNRS/IN2P3, UPS, Toulouse; France
[92] Instituto de Física La Plata, Universidad Nacional de La Plata and CONICET, La Plata; Argentina
[93] Physics Department, Lancaster University, Lancaster; United Kingdom
[94] Oliver Lodge Laboratory, University of Liverpool, Liverpool; United Kingdom
[95] Department of Experimental Particle Physics, Jožef Stefan Institute and Department of Physics, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana; Slovenia
[96] Department of Physics and Astronomy, Queen Mary University of London, London; United Kingdom
[97] Department of Physics, Royal Holloway University of London, Egham; United Kingdom
[98] Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London; United Kingdom
[99] Louisiana Tech University, Ruston LA; United States of America
[100] Fysiska institutionen, Lunds universitet, Lund; Sweden
[101] Departamento de Física Teorica C-15 and CIAFF, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid; Spain
[102] Institut für Physik, Universität Mainz, Mainz; Germany
[103] School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manchester, Manchester; United Kingdom
[104] CPPM, Aix-Marseille Université, CNRS/IN2P3, Marseille; France
[105] Department of Physics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA; United States of America

[106] Department of Physics, McGill University, Montreal QC; Canada
[107] School of Physics, University of Melbourne, Victoria; Australia
[108] Department of Physics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI; United States of America
[109] Department of Physics and Astronomy, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI; United States of America
[110] Group of Particle Physics, University of Montreal, Montreal QC; Canada
[111] Fakultät für Physik, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, München; Germany
[112] Max-Planck-Institut für Physik (Werner-Heisenberg-Institut), München; Germany
[113] Graduate School of Science and Kobayashi-Maskawa Institute, Nagoya University, Nagoya; Japan
[114] [(a)] Department of Physics, Nanjing University, Nanjing; [(b)] School of Science, Shenzhen Campus of Sun Yat-sen University; [(c)] University of Chinese Academy of Science (UCAS), Beijing; China
[115] Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM; United States of America
[116] Institute for Mathematics, Astrophysics and Particle Physics, Radboud University/Nikhef, Nijmegen; Netherlands
[117] Nikhef National Institute for Subatomic Physics and University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam; Netherlands
[118] Department of Physics, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb IL; United States of America
[119] [(a)] New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi; [(b)] United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain; United Arab Emirates
[120] Department of Physics, New York University, New York NY; United States of America
[121] Ochanomizu University, Otsuka, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo; Japan
[122] Ohio State University, Columbus OH; United States of America
[123] Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Oklahoma, Norman OK; United States of America
[124] Department of Physics, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater OK; United States of America
[125] Palacký University, Joint Laboratory of Optics, Olomouc; Czech Republic
[126] Institute for Fundamental Science, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR; United States of America
[127] Graduate School of Science, University of Osaka, Osaka; Japan
[128] Department of Physics, University of Oslo, Oslo; Norway
[129] Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford; United Kingdom
[130] LPNHE, Sorbonne Université, Université Paris Cité, CNRS/IN2P3, Paris; France
[131] Department of Physics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA; United States of America
[132] Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA; United States of America
[133] [(a)] Laboratório de Instrumentação e Física Experimental de Partículas - LIP, Lisboa; [(b)] Departamento de Física, Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa; [(c)] Departamento de Física, Universidade de Coimbra, Coimbra; [(d)] Centro de Física Nuclear da Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa; [(e)] Departamento de Física, Escola de Ciências, Universidade do Minho, Braga; [(f)] Departamento de Física Teórica y del Cosmos, Universidad de Granada, Granada (Spain); [(g)] Departamento de Física, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa; Portugal
[134] Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague; Czech Republic
[135] Czech Technical University in Prague, Prague; Czech Republic
[136] Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Prague; Czech Republic
[137] Particle Physics Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot; United Kingdom
[138] IRFU, CEA, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette; France
[139] Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz CA; United States of America
[140] [(a)] Departamento de Física, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago; [(b)] Millennium Institute for Subatomic physics at high energy frontier (SAPHIR), Santiago; [(c)] Instituto de Investigación Multidisciplinario en Ciencia y Tecnología, y Departamento de Física, Universidad de La Serena; [(d)] Universidad Andres Bello, Department of Physics, Santiago; [(e)] Instituto de Alta Investigación, Universidad de Tarapacá, Arica; [(f)] Departamento de Física, Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María, Valparaíso; Chile
[141] Department of Physics, Institute of Science, Tokyo; Japan
[142] Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle WA; United States of America
[143] [(a)] Institute of Frontier and Interdisciplinary Science and Key Laboratory of Particle Physics and Particle Irradiation (MOE), Shandong University, Qingdao; [(b)] School of Physics, Zhengzhou University; China
[144] [(a)] State Key Laboratory of Dark Matter Physics, School of Physics and Astronomy, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Key Laboratory for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology (MOE), SKLPPC, Shanghai; [(b)] State Key Laboratory of Dark Matter Physics, Tsung-Dao Lee Institute, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai; China
[145] Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield; United Kingdom
[146] Department of Physics, Shinshu University, Nagano; Japan
[147] Department Physik, Universität Siegen, Siegen; Germany
[148] Department of Physics, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC; Canada
[149] SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Stanford CA; United States of America
[150] Department of Physics, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm; Sweden
[151] Departments of Physics and Astronomy, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook NY; United States of America
[152] Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sussex, Brighton; United Kingdom
[153] School of Physics, University of Sydney, Sydney; Australia
[154] Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei; Taiwan
[155] [(a)] E. Andronikashvili Institute of Physics, Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi; [(b)] High Energy Physics Institute, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi; [(c)] University of Georgia, Tbilisi; Georgia
[156] Department of Physics, Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa; Israel
[157] Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Physics and Astronomy, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv; Israel
[158] Department of Physics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki; Greece
[159] International Center for Elementary Particle Physics and Department of Physics, University of Tokyo, Tokyo; Japan
[160] Graduate School of Science and Technology, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Tokyo; Japan
[161] Department of Physics, University of Toronto, Toronto ON; Canada
[162] [(a)] TRIUMF, Vancouver BC; [(b)] Department of Physics and Astronomy, York University, Toronto ON; Canada
[163] Division of Physics and Tomonaga Center for the History of the Universe, Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba; Japan
[164] Department of Physics and Astronomy, Tufts University, Medford MA; United States of America
[165] Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of California Irvine, Irvine CA; United States of America
[166] University of West Attica, Athens; Greece
[167] Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Uppsala, Uppsala; Sweden
[168] Department of Physics, University of Illinois, Urbana IL; United States of America
[169] Instituto de Física Corpuscular (IFIC), Centro Mixto Universidad de Valencia - CSIC, Valencia; Spain
[170] Department of Physics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC; Canada
[171] Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Victoria, Victoria BC; Canada
[172] Fakultät für Physik und Astronomie, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Würzburg; Germany
[173] Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Coventry; United Kingdom
[174] Waseda University, Tokyo; Japan
[175] Department of Particle Physics and Astrophysics, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot; Israel
[176] Department of Physics, University of Wisconsin, Madison WI; United States of America
[177] Fakultät für Mathematik und Naturwissenschaften, Fachgruppe Physik, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Wuppertal; Germany
[178] Department of Physics, Yale University, New Haven CT; United States of America

[179] Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan; Armenia

[a] Also at Affiliated with an institute formerly covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN.
[b] Also at An-Najah National University, Nablus; Palestine.
[c] Also at Borough of Manhattan Community College, City University of New York, New York NY; United States of America.
[d] Also at Center for High Energy Physics, Peking University; China.
[e] Also at Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation (CIRI-AUTH), Thessaloniki; Greece.
[f] Also at Centre of Physics of the Universities of Minho and Porto (CF-UM-UP); Portugal.
[g] Also at CERN, Geneva; Switzerland.
[h] Also at CMD-AC UNEC Research Center, Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC); Azerbaijan.
[i] Also at Département de Physique Nucléaire et Corpusculaire, Université de Genève, Genève; Switzerland.
[j] Also at Departament de Fisica de la Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, Barcelona; Spain.
[k] Also at Department of Financial and Management Engineering, University of the Aegean, Chios; Greece.
[l] Also at Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of South Africa, Johannesburg; South Africa.
[m] Also at Department of Modern Physics and State Key Laboratory of Particle Detection and Electronics, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei; China.
[n] Also at Department of Physics, Bolu Abant Izzet Baysal University, Bolu; Türkiye.
[o] Also at Department of Physics, California State University, Sacramento; United States of America.
[p] Also at Department of Physics, King's College London, London; United Kingdom.
[q] Also at Department of Physics, Stanford University, Stanford CA; United States of America.
[r] Also at Department of Physics, Stellenbosch University; South Africa.
[s] Also at Department of Physics, University of Fribourg, Fribourg; Switzerland.
[t] Also at Department of Physics, University of Thessaly; Greece.
[u] Also at Department of Physics, Westmont College, Santa Barbara; United States of America.
[v] Also at Faculty of Physics, Sofia University, 'St. Kliment Ohridski', Sofia; Bulgaria.
[w] Also at Hellenic Open University, Patras; Greece.
[x] Also at Henan University; China.
[y] Also at Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University; Saudi Arabia.
[z] Also at Institucio Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avancats, ICREA, Barcelona; Spain.
[aa] Also at Institut für Experimentalphysik, Universität Hamburg, Hamburg; Germany.
[ab] Also at Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy (INRNE) of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia; Bulgaria.
[ac] Also at Institute of Applied Physics, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Ben Guerir; Morocco.
[ad] Also at Institute of Particle Physics (IPP); Canada.
[ae] Also at Institute of Physics and Technology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Ulaanbaatar; Mongolia.
[af] Also at Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku; Azerbaijan.
[ag] Also at Institute of Theoretical Physics, Ilia State University, Tbilisi; Georgia.
[ah] Also at National Institute of Physics, University of the Philippines Diliman (Philippines); Philippines.
[ai] Also at Technical University of Munich, Munich; Germany.
[aj] Also at The Collaborative Innovation Center of Quantum Matter (CICQM), Beijing; China.
[ak] Also at TRIUMF, Vancouver BC; Canada.
[al] Also at Università di Napoli Parthenope, Napoli; Italy.
[am] Also at University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Physics, Colorado; United States of America.
[an] Also at University of Sienna; Italy.
[ao] Also at University of the Western Cape; South Africa.
[ap] Also at Washington College, Chestertown, MD; United States of America.
[aq] Also at Yeditepe University, Physics Department, Istanbul; Türkiye.
[*] Deceased.