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Roel Aaij, Carlos Abellán Beteta, Bernardo Adeva, Marco Adinolfi, Christine Angela Aidala, Ziad Ajaltouni, Simon Akar, Pietro Albicocco, Johannes Albrecht, Federico Alessio, et al.

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Measurement of CP -violating and mixing-induced observables in $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ decays

LHCb collaboration[†]

Abstract

A time-dependent analysis of the $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ decay rate is performed to determine the CP -violating observables $S_{\phi\gamma}$ and $C_{\phi\gamma}$, and the mixing-induced observable $\mathcal{A}_{\phi\gamma}^\Delta$. The measurement is based on a sample of pp collision data recorded with the LHCb detector, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 3 fb^{-1} at center-of-mass energies of 7 and 8 TeV. The measured values are

$$S_{\phi\gamma} = 0.43 \pm 0.30 \pm 0.11,$$

$$C_{\phi\gamma} = 0.11 \pm 0.29 \pm 0.11,$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{\phi\gamma}^\Delta = -0.67^{+0.37}_{-0.41} \pm 0.17,$$

where the first uncertainty is statistical and the second systematic. This is the first measurement of the observables S and C in radiative B_s^0 decays. The results are consistent with the Standard Model predictions.

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[†]Authors are listed at the end of this Letter.

In the Standard Model (SM) of particle physics, the $b \rightarrow s\gamma$ transition proceeds via loop Feynman diagrams. The small size of the SM amplitude makes such process sensitive to the contribution of possible new particles. The emitted photons are produced predominantly with left-handed helicity in the SM due to parity violation in the weak interaction, with a small relative right-handed component proportional to the ratio of s - to b -quark masses. In many extensions of the SM, the right-handed component can be enhanced, leading to observable effects in mixing-induced CP asymmetries and time-dependent decay rates of radiative B^0 and B_s^0 decays [1–3]. Current measurements sensitive to right-handed contributions [4–9] are in agreement with SM predictions [10].

The rate $\mathcal{P}(t)$ at which B_s^0 or \bar{B}_s^0 mesons decay to a common final state that contains a photon, such as $\phi\gamma$ (where ϕ refers to $\phi(1020)$), depends on the decay time t as [3]

$$\mathcal{P}(t) \propto e^{-\Gamma_s t} \left\{ \cosh(\Delta\Gamma_s t/2) - \mathcal{A}^\Delta \sinh(\Delta\Gamma_s t/2) + \zeta C \cos(\Delta m_s t) - \zeta S \sin(\Delta m_s t) \right\}, \quad (1)$$

where $\Delta\Gamma_s$ and Δm_s are the width and mass differences between the B_s^0 mass eigenstates, defined positively, Γ_s is the mean decay width between such eigenstates, and ζ takes the value of $+1$ (-1) for an initial B_s^0 (\bar{B}_s^0) state. The coefficients \mathcal{A}^Δ and S are sensitive to the photon helicity amplitudes and weak phases, while C is related to CP violation in the decay. The SM predictions for the three coefficients in the $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ decay are close to zero [3]. The LHCb collaboration has previously measured $\mathcal{A}_{\phi\gamma}^\Delta = -0.98^{+0.46}_{-0.52} {}^{+0.23}_{-0.20}$ [9] from a time-dependent flavour-untagged analysis, which is compatible with the SM within two standard deviations.

This Letter reports the first measurement of the CP -violating observables S and C from a radiative B_s^0 decay, determined from the time-dependent rate of $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ decays in which the ϕ meson decays to a K^+K^- pair. An update of the $\mathcal{A}_{\phi\gamma}^\Delta$ coefficient measurement is also provided. Results are based on data collected with the LHCb detector in pp collisions at center-of-mass energies of 7 and 8 TeV during the years 2011 and 2012, respectively, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 3 fb^{-1} . Compared to Ref. [9], the current analysis benefits from a 20% higher event selection efficiency, a reoptimized calorimeter reconstruction and a new photon identification algorithm. Flavor-tagging algorithms are applied to determine the initial flavor of the B_s^0 or \bar{B}_s^0 meson, which is essential to measure the S and C observables, whereas flavor-untagged decays still contribute to the measurement of \mathcal{A}^Δ . The background is subtracted from a fit to the mass distribution of the B_s^0 candidates. A sample of untagged $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\gamma$ decays (where K^{*0} refers to $K^{*0}(892)$), reconstructed in the flavor-specific $K^{*0} \rightarrow K^+\pi^-$ final state, is used to control the decay-time-dependent efficiency, since its lifetime is well measured. Throughout this Letter, the inclusion of charge-conjugated processes is implied.

The LHCb detector is a single-arm forward spectrometer covering the pseudorapidity range $2 < \eta < 5$, described in detail in Refs. [11, 12]. It includes a high-precision tracking system consisting of a silicon-strip vertex detector surrounding the pp interaction region, a large-area silicon-strip detector located upstream of a dipole magnet with a bending power of about 4 Tm, and three stations of silicon-strip detectors and straw drift tubes placed downstream of the magnet. Different types of charged hadrons are distinguished using information from two ring-imaging Cherenkov detectors. Photons, electrons and hadrons are identified by a calorimeter system consisting of scintillating-pad and preshower detectors, an electromagnetic and a hadronic calorimeter.

The online event selection is performed by a trigger system, which consists of a hardware stage, based on information from the calorimeter and muon systems, followed by a software stage, which applies a full event reconstruction. Two trigger selections are defined, with different photon and track momentum thresholds. Samples of simulated events, produced with the software described in Refs. [13–18], are used to characterize signal and background contributions. The signal sample is generated with the three coefficients $\mathcal{A}_{\phi\gamma}^\Delta$, $C_{\phi\gamma}$ and $S_{\phi\gamma}$ set to zero.

Candidate $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ decays are reconstructed from a photon candidate and two oppositely charged particles identified as kaons. The selection is designed to maximize the significance $S/\sqrt{S+B}$ of the signal yield. Photons are reconstructed from energy deposits in the electromagnetic calorimeter and required to have a momentum transverse to the beam axis, p_T , larger than 3.0 or 4.2 GeV/ c , depending on the trigger selection. Background due to photons from π^0 decays is rejected by a dedicated algorithm [19]. The kaon candidates are required to have $p > 1.0$ GeV/ c and $p_T > 0.3$ GeV/ c , where p is the total momentum, and at least one of them must fulfill $p > 10$ GeV/ c and $p_T > 1.2$ or 1.8 GeV/ c , depending on the trigger selection. Kaon candidates are required to be inconsistent with originating from a primary pp interaction vertex, and must form a common vertex of good quality. The K^+K^- system must have an invariant mass within 15 MeV/ c^2 of the known ϕ mass [20]. The B_s^0 candidate must be consistent with originating from only one pp interaction vertex, and only candidates with decay times between 0.3 and 10 ps are retained. In addition, the cosine of the helicity angle (θ_H), defined as the angle between the momenta of the positively charged kaon and that of the B_s^0 meson in the rest frame of the ϕ meson, is required to be less than 0.8 in absolute value. This requirement helps to suppress the π^0 and combinatorial backgrounds, which are expected to be distributed as $\cos^2 \theta_H$ and a uniform distribution, respectively, as opposed to the $\sin^2 \theta_H$ distribution expected for the signal. The $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\gamma$ decay, with $K^{*0} \rightarrow K^+\pi^-$, is selected with almost identical requirements. A pion is required instead of a kaon, and the invariant mass of the $K^+\pi^-$ system must be within 100 MeV/ c^2 of the known K^{*0} mass [20].

The signal yields are 5110 ± 90 for $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ decays and $33\,860 \pm 250$ for $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\gamma$ decays, where the uncertainties are statistical only. They are obtained from separate extended unbinned maximum-likelihood fits to the $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ and $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\gamma$ reconstructed mass distributions in the ranges 5000–6000 MeV/ c^2 and 4600–6000 MeV/ c^2 , respectively. The mass fits are shown in Fig. 1. The results are used to assign weights to the candidates in the data samples in order to subtract the backgrounds [21]. The signal line shapes are described by modified Crystal Ball functions [22], consisting of a Gaussian core with power-law tails on both sides of the peak. The mean and width of the Gaussian core are obtained from data, while the tail parameters are determined from simulation. Three background categories are considered: combinatorial, peaking, and partially reconstructed. The combinatorial background, modeled by a linear function, is produced by the wrong association of a random photon with two hadrons mostly coming from real ϕ and K^{*0} resonances. The peaking backgrounds originate from other b -hadron decays with a reconstructed mass falling under the signal peak, due to the misidentification of one or several final-state particles. All possible combinations of misidentified hadrons, or the misidentification of a π^0 meson as a photon, are considered for the signal and control decay channels. For the $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ decay channel, the relevant contributions are $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\pi^0$ and $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow (pK^-)\gamma$, where pK^- comes from $\Lambda(1520)$ and further baryon resonances. For

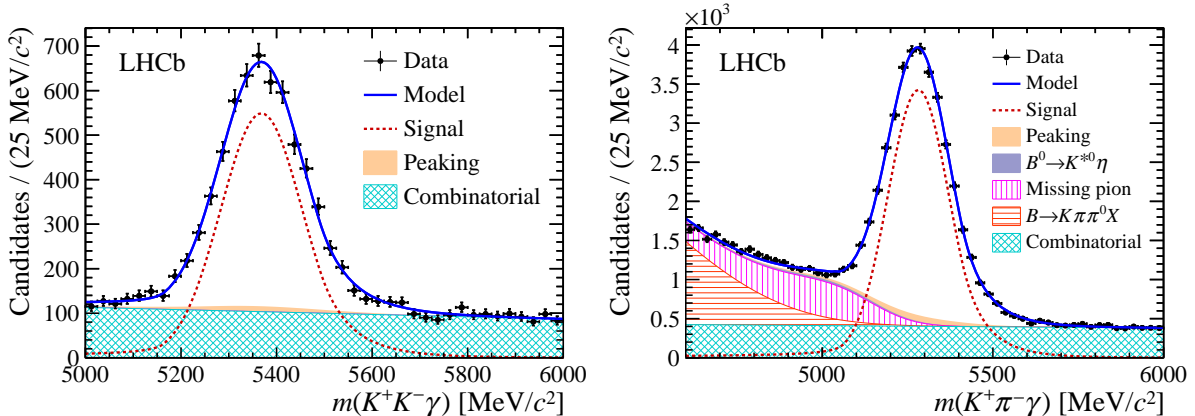


Figure 1: Fits to the mass distributions of the (left) $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ and (right) $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\gamma$ candidates.

the $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\gamma$ decay channel, the $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\pi^0$ and $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow (pK^-)\gamma$ decays are taken into account. Each peaking background is modeled with a Crystal Ball function. The shape parameters are determined from simulation, except for the width of the Gaussian core, which is multiplied by a factor to account for the difference in resolution between data and simulation. The yield ratios of peaking backgrounds to signal are calculated using simulation samples and taking the branching ratios from experimental measurements [6, 9]. They are determined to be below 2% in all cases. Partially reconstructed backgrounds originate from other b -hadron decays in which one or several final-state particles are not reconstructed. This contribution is negligible in $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ decays, while for the $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\gamma$ mode the dominant contributions are: decays of the type $B \rightarrow K\pi\pi\gamma$ with a missing pion, decays of the type $B \rightarrow K\pi\pi^0 X$ (mainly from $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}^0\rho^+$ decays) with one or several missing hadrons, and $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\eta(\gamma\gamma)$ decays with a missing photon. They are described by an ARGUS function [23] convolved with a Gaussian function to account for the detector resolution, with the shape parameters determined from simulation.

Flavor-tagging algorithms are applied to identify the initial flavor of the B_s^0 meson. They provide a tag decision q , which takes the value +1 if the signal was originally a B_s^0 meson, -1 if it was a \bar{B}_s^0 meson, and zero if no decision is given. The algorithms also provide an estimate η of the probability for the tag decision to be incorrect (mistag probability). Two classes of flavor-tagging algorithms are used: same-side (SS) [24] and opposite-side (OS) taggers [25]. The SS tagger determines the flavor of the signal candidate by identifying the charge of the kaon produced together with the B_s^0 meson in the fragmentation process, and is based on a neural network algorithm [24]. The OS taggers rely on the pair production of b hadrons in pp collisions and examine the decay products of the other b hadron in the event. The information used includes the charge of the leptons produced in semileptonic decays, the charge of kaons produced in $b \rightarrow c \rightarrow s$ transitions, and the charge of the particles originating from the decay vertex [25].

The mistag probability estimate η is calibrated using a linear function to obtain a corrected mistag probability ω for the signal sample. This is performed using mainly samples of $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+$ and $B^0 \rightarrow J/\psi K^{*0}$ decays for the OS tagger and $B_s^0 \rightarrow D_s^- \pi^+$ and $B_{s2}^{*0}(5840)^0 \rightarrow B^+ K^-$ decays for the SS tagger. The uncertainties of the calibration parameters include a systematic uncertainty that takes into account possible differences of these parameters between the decays used for calibration and other B -decay modes.

The validity of these calibrations for $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ decays is checked using both simulation and data. Finally, the outputs of the algorithms are combined into a single decision and mistag probability. The effective tagging efficiency, $\epsilon_{\text{eff}} = (4.99 \pm 0.14)\%$, is the product of the probability to obtain a decision $\epsilon_{\text{tag}} = (74.5 \pm 0.8)\%$ and the square of the effective dilution $D = 1 - 2\omega = (25.9 \pm 0.3)\%$.

The CP -violating and mixing-induced observables are determined from a weighted unbinned maximum-likelihood fit [26] to the decay-time distributions, performed simultaneously on the $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ and $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\gamma$ samples. The signal probability density function (PDF) of the $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ decay-time distribution is defined as the decay rate $\mathcal{P}(t)$ in Eq. 1, convolved with a resolution function and multiplied by a decay-time-dependent efficiency $\epsilon(t)$. For the $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\gamma$ decay, the time-dependent decay rate is described as a single exponential function. The physics parameters are constrained to the averages from Ref. [27]: $\tau_{B^0} = 1.520 \pm 0.004$ ps, $\Gamma_s = 0.6629 \pm 0.0018$ ps $^{-1}$, $\Delta\Gamma_s = 0.088 \pm 0.006$ ps $^{-1}$ and $\Delta m_s = 17.757 \pm 0.021$ ps $^{-1}$. The correlation of -0.11 between the Γ_s and $\Delta\Gamma_s$ parameters is taken into account.

The decay-time resolution is modeled by the sum of two Gaussian functions, with a common mean and independent widths. The widths are given by the per-candidate decay-time uncertainties, multiplied by constant scaling factors determined from simulation to account for an observed underestimation of the uncertainties. Additional control samples are used to determine the decay-time resolution differences between simulation and data, which are accounted for in the analysis as a source of systematic uncertainty. These samples include ϕ mesons coming from pp interaction vertices and $B^0 \rightarrow J/\psi K^{*0}$ decays, with $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$. In the latter case, in order to emulate the signal behavior, the decay is reconstructed with the two muons not contributing to the vertex fitting. The resolution depends strongly on the decay time, with an average of 70 fs. The decay-time resolution is dominated by the photon momentum resolution, therefore being similar for $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ and $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\gamma$ decays.

The efficiency as a function of the decay time t is parameterized as

$$\epsilon(t) \propto \frac{t^{a/t}}{\cosh(bt)}, \quad (2)$$

where the parameters a and b describe mainly the shape of the function at low and high decay times, respectively. One hundred bins of variable size are defined to characterize this function. The efficiency parameters are determined in the simultaneous fit to the data, mainly driven from $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\gamma$ candidates, while the differences between the two decays are obtained from simulation and fixed in the data fit. In simulation, the decay-time-dependent efficiencies of the two decay modes are compatible within uncertainties.

Pseudoexperiments are used to validate the overall fit procedure. In each pseudoexperiment, samples of $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ and $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\gamma$ signal decays are generated based on the data mass fit and the expected yields. Background candidates are included taking random events from data or simulation. The mass and the decay-time fits are then performed, following the nominal procedure. The procedure is repeated for several values of the coefficients. No biases are found on the average fitted values, in any scenario. Statistical uncertainties are found to be underestimated by about 15% for $S_{\phi\gamma}$ and $C_{\phi\gamma}$, and 5% for $\mathcal{A}_{\phi\gamma}^\Delta$, due to the background-subtraction weights [26]. The uncertainties are corrected for in the results below.

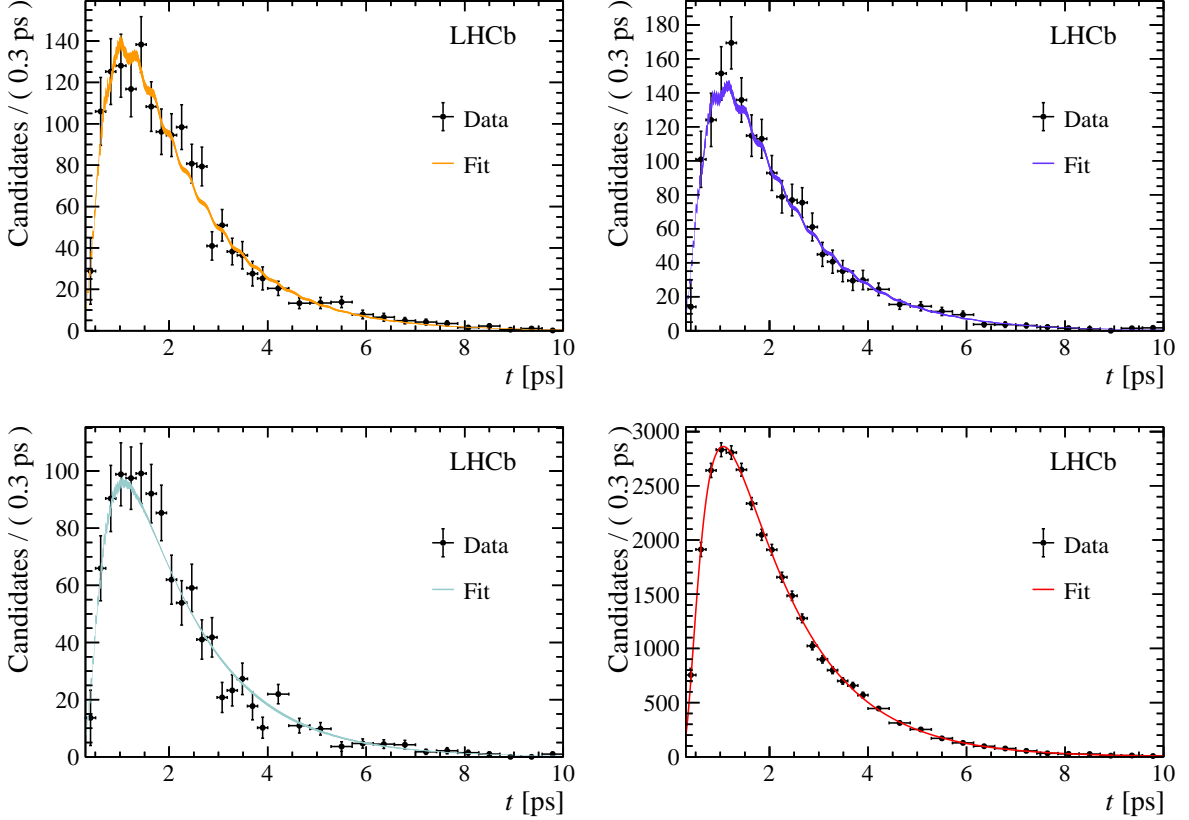


Figure 2: Decay-time fit projections. The top row corresponds to the tagged (left) $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ and (right) $\bar{B}_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ candidates, while the bottom plots show the (left) untagged $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ and (right) $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\gamma$ candidates. The line is the result of the fit described in the text, including statistical uncertainties.

The decay-time distributions and the corresponding fit projections are shown in Fig. 2. The fitted values are $S_{\phi\gamma} = 0.43 \pm 0.30$, $C_{\phi\gamma} = 0.11 \pm 0.29$ and $\mathcal{A}_{\phi\gamma}^\Delta = -0.67^{+0.37}_{-0.41}$, with a small correlation of -0.04 between each pair of observables. The statistical uncertainty includes the uncertainty from the physics parameters taken from external measurements. For $S_{\phi\gamma}$ and $C_{\phi\gamma}$, the systematic uncertainty is dominated by the effects of possible differences between data and simulation in the decay-time resolution parameters (0.08), and the uncertainty on the parameters used to calibrate the same-side tagging algorithms (0.04). For $\mathcal{A}_{\phi\gamma}^\Delta$, the dominant source of systematic uncertainties is related to the determination of the decay-time-dependent efficiency function. In particular, the contribution of the partially reconstructed background of $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\gamma$ decays, coming from the correlation between reconstructed mass and time (0.11) and the mass-shape modeling (0.08), and the limited size of the simulation sample used to determine the efficiency differences between $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ and $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\gamma$ decays (0.08). The total systematic uncertainties are 0.11 for $S_{\phi\gamma}$ and $C_{\phi\gamma}$, and 0.17 for $\mathcal{A}_{\phi\gamma}^\Delta$.

In summary, the CP -violating and mixing-induced observables $S_{\phi\gamma}$, $C_{\phi\gamma}$ and $\mathcal{A}_{\phi\gamma}^\Delta$ are measured from a time-dependent analysis of $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ decays, using a data sample corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 3 fb^{-1} collected with the LHCb experiment during the 2011 and 2012 data-taking periods. More than 5000 $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ decays are

reconstructed. A sample of $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\gamma$ decays, which is six times larger, is used for the calibration of the time-dependent efficiency. From a simultaneous unbinned fit to the $B_s^0 \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ and $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\gamma$ data samples, the values

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\phi\gamma} &= 0.43 \pm 0.30 \pm 0.11, \\ C_{\phi\gamma} &= 0.11 \pm 0.29 \pm 0.11, \\ \mathcal{A}_{\phi\gamma}^{\Delta} &= -0.67^{+0.37}_{-0.41} \pm 0.17 \end{aligned}$$

are measured, where the first uncertainty is statistical and the second systematic. The results are compatible with the SM expectation [3] within 1.3, 0.3 and 1.7 standard deviations, respectively.

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LHCb collaboration

R. Aaij²⁹, C. Abellán Beteta⁴⁶, B. Adeva⁴³, M. Adinolfi⁵⁰, C.A. Aidala⁷⁷, Z. Ajaltouni⁷, S. Akar⁶¹, P. Albicocco²⁰, J. Albrecht¹², F. Alessio⁴⁴, M. Alexander⁵⁵, A. Alfonso Alberio⁴², G. Alkhazov³⁵, P. Alvarez Cartelle⁵⁷, A.A. Alves Jr⁴³, S. Amato², Y. Amhis⁹, L. An¹⁹, L. Anderlini¹⁹, G. Andreassi⁴⁵, M. Andreotti¹⁸, J.E. Andrews⁶², F. Archilli²⁰, J. Arnau Romeu⁸, A. Artamonov⁴¹, M. Artuso⁶³, K. Arzymatov³⁹, E. Aslanides⁸, M. Atzeni⁴⁶, B. Audurier²⁴, S. Bachmann¹⁴, J.J. Back⁵², S. Baker⁵⁷, V. Balagura^{9,b}, W. Baldini^{18,44}, A. Baranov³⁹, R.J. Barlow⁵⁸, S. Barsuk⁹, W. Barter⁵⁷, M. Bartolini²¹, F. Baryshnikov⁷³, V. Batozskaya³³, B. Batsukh⁶³, A. Battig¹², V. Battista⁴⁵, A. Bay⁴⁵, F. Bedeschi²⁶, I. Bediaga¹, A. Beiter⁶³, L.J. Bel²⁹, V. Belavin³⁹, S. Belin²⁴, N. Belyi⁴, V. Bellee⁴⁵, N. Belloli^{22,i}, K. Belous⁴¹, I. Belyaev³⁶, G. Bencivenni²⁰, E. Ben-Haim¹⁰, S. Benson²⁹, S. Beranek¹¹, A. Berezhnoy³⁷, R. Bernet⁴⁶, D. Berninghoff¹⁴, E. Bertholet¹⁰, A. Bertolin²⁵, C. Betancourt⁴⁶, F. Betti^{17,e}, M.O. Bettler⁵¹, I.a. Bezshyiko⁴⁶, S. Bhasin⁵⁰, J. Bhom³¹, M.S. Bieker¹², S. Bifani⁴⁹, P. Billoir¹⁰, A. Birnkraut¹², A. Bizzeti^{19,u}, M. Bjørn⁵⁹, M.P. Blago⁴⁴, T. Blake⁵², F. Blanc⁴⁵, S. Blusk⁶³, D. Bobulska⁵⁵, V. Bocci²⁸, O. Boente Garcia⁴³, T. Boettcher⁶⁰, A. Bondar^{40,x}, N. Bondar³⁵, S. Borghi^{58,44}, M. Borisyak³⁹, M. Borsato¹⁴, M. Boubdir¹¹, T.J.V. Bowcock⁵⁶, C. Bozzi^{18,44}, S. Braun¹⁴, A. Brea Rodriguez⁴³, M. Brodski⁴⁴, J. Brodzicka³¹, A. Brossa Gonzalo⁵², D. Brundu^{24,44}, E. Buchanan⁵⁰, A. Buonaura⁴⁶, C. Burr⁵⁸, A. Bursche²⁴, J.S. Butter²⁹, J. Buytaert⁴⁴, W. Byczynski⁴⁴, S. Cadeddu²⁴, H. Cai⁶⁷, R. Calabrese^{18,g}, S. Cali²⁰, R. Calladine⁴⁹, M. Calvi^{22,i}, M. Calvo Gomez^{42,m}, A. Camboni^{42,m}, P. Campana²⁰, D.H. Campora Perez⁴⁴, L. Capriotti^{17,e}, A. Carbone^{17,e}, G. Carboni²⁷, R. Cardinale²¹, A. Cardini²⁴, P. Carniti^{22,i}, K. Carvalho Akiba², A. Casais Vidal⁴³, G. Casse⁵⁶, M. Cattaneo⁴⁴, G. Cavallero²¹, R. Cenci^{26,p}, M.G. Chapman⁵⁰, M. Charles^{10,44}, Ph. Charpentier⁴⁴, G. Chatzikonstantinidis⁴⁹, M. Chefdeville⁶, V. Chekalina³⁹, C. Chen³, S. Chen²⁴, S.-G. Chitic⁴⁴, V. Chobanova⁴³, M. Chrzaszcz⁴⁴, A. Chubykin³⁵, P. Ciambone²⁰, X. Cid Vidal⁴³, G. Ciezarek⁴⁴, F. Cindolo¹⁷, P.E.L. Clarke⁵⁴, M. Clemencic⁴⁴, H.V. Cliff⁵¹, J. Closier⁴⁴, V. Coco⁴⁴, J.A.B. Coelho⁹, J. Cogan⁸, E. Cogneras⁷, L. Cojocariu³⁴, P. Collins⁴⁴, T. Colombo⁴⁴, A. Comerma-Montells¹⁴, A. Contu²⁴, G. Coombs⁴⁴, S. Coquereau⁴², G. Corti⁴⁴, C.M. Costa Sobral⁵², B. Couturier⁴⁴, G.A. Cowan⁵⁴, D.C. Craik⁶⁰, A. Crocombe⁵², M. Cruz Torres¹, R. Currie⁵⁴, C.L. Da Silva⁷⁸, E. Dall'Occo²⁹, J. Dalseno^{43,v}, C. D'Ambrosio⁴⁴, A. Danilina³⁶, P. d'Argent¹⁴, A. Davis⁵⁸, O. De Aguiar Francisco⁴⁴, K. De Bruyn⁴⁴, S. De Capua⁵⁸, M. De Cian⁴⁵, J.M. De Miranda¹, L. De Paula², M. De Serio^{16,d}, P. De Simone²⁰, J.A. de Vries²⁹, C.T. Dean⁵⁵, W. Dean⁷⁷, D. Decamp⁶, L. Del Buono¹⁰, B. Delaney⁵¹, H.-P. Dembinski¹³, M. Demmer¹², A. Dendek³², D. Derkach⁷⁴, O. Deschamps⁷, F. Desse⁹, F. Dettori²⁴, B. Dey⁶⁸, A. Di Canto⁴⁴, P. Di Nezza²⁰, S. Didenko⁷³, H. Dijkstra⁴⁴, F. Dordei²⁴, M. Dorigo^{26,y}, A.C. dos Reis¹, A. Dosil Suárez⁴³, L. Douglas⁵⁵, A. Dovbnya⁴⁷, K. Dreimanis⁵⁶, L. Dufour⁴⁴, G. Dujany¹⁰, P. Durante⁴⁴, J.M. Durham⁷⁸, D. Dutta⁵⁸, R. Dzhelyadin^{41,†}, M. Dziewiecki¹⁴, A. Dziurda³¹, A. Dzyuba³⁵, S. Easo⁵³, U. Egede⁵⁷, V. Egorychev³⁶, S. Eidelman^{40,x}, S. Eisenhardt⁵⁴, U. Eitschberger¹², R. Ekelhof¹², S. Ek-In⁴⁵, L. Eklund⁵⁵, S. Ely⁶³, A. Ene³⁴, S. Escher¹¹, S. Esen²⁹, T. Evans⁶¹, A. Falabella¹⁷, C. Färber⁴⁴, N. Farley⁴⁹, S. Farry⁵⁶, D. Fazzini⁹, M. Féo⁴⁴, P. Fernandez Declara⁴⁴, A. Fernandez Prieto⁴³, F. Ferrari^{17,e}, L. Ferreira Lopes⁴⁵, F. Ferreira Rodrigues², S. Ferreres Sole²⁹, M. Ferro-Luzzi⁴⁴, S. Filippov³⁸, R.A. Fini¹⁶, M. Fiorini^{18,g}, M. Firlej³², C. Fitzpatrick⁴⁴, T. Fiutowski³², F. Fleuret^{9,b}, M. Fontana⁴⁴, F. Fontanelli^{21,h}, R. Forty⁴⁴, V. Franco Lima⁵⁶, M. Franco Sevilla⁶², M. Frank⁴⁴, C. Frei⁴⁴, J. Fu^{23,q}, W. Funk⁴⁴, E. Gabriel⁵⁴, A. Gallas Torreira⁴³, D. Galli^{17,e}, S. Gallorini²⁵, S. Gambetta⁵⁴, Y. Gan³, M. Gandelman², P. Gandini²³, Y. Gao³, L.M. Garcia Martin⁷⁶, J. García Pardiñas⁴⁶, B. Garcia Plana⁴³, J. Garra Tico⁵¹, L. Garrido⁴², D. Gascon⁴², C. Gaspar⁴⁴, G. Gazzoni⁷, D. Gerick¹⁴, E. Gersabeck⁵⁸, M. Gersabeck⁵⁸, T. Gershon⁵², D. Gerstel⁸, Ph. Ghez⁶, V. Gibson⁵¹, O.G. Girard⁴⁵, P. Gironella Gironell⁴²,

L. Giubega³⁴, K. Gizdov⁵⁴, V.V. Gligorov¹⁰, C. Göbel⁶⁵, D. Golubkov³⁶, A. Golutvin^{57,73},
 A. Gomes^{1,a}, I.V. Gorelov³⁷, C. Gotti^{22,i}, E. Govorkova²⁹, J.P. Grabowski¹⁴, R. Graciani Diaz⁴²,
 L.A. Granado Cardoso⁴⁴, E. Graugés⁴², E. Graverini⁴⁵, G. Graziani¹⁹, A. Grecu³⁴, R. Greim²⁹,
 P. Griffith²⁴, L. Grillo⁵⁸, L. Gruber⁴⁴, B.R. Gruberg Cazon⁵⁹, C. Gu³, E. Gushchin³⁸,
 A. Guth¹¹, Yu. Guz^{41,44}, T. Gys⁴⁴, T. Hadavizadeh⁵⁹, C. Hadjivasiliou⁷, G. Haefeli⁴⁵, C. Haen⁴⁴,
 S.C. Haines⁵¹, B. Hamilton⁶², Q. Han⁶⁸, X. Han¹⁴, T.H. Hancock⁵⁹, S. Hansmann-Menzemer¹⁴,
 N. Harnew⁵⁹, T. Harrison⁵⁶, C. Hasse⁴⁴, M. Hatch⁴⁴, J. He⁴, M. Hecker⁵⁷, K. Heinicke¹²,
 A. Heister¹², K. Hennessy⁵⁶, L. Henry⁷⁶, M. Heß⁷⁰, J. Heuel¹¹, A. Hicheur⁶⁴,
 R. Hidalgo Charman⁵⁸, D. Hill⁵⁹, M. Hilton⁵⁸, P.H. Hopchev⁴⁵, J. Hu¹⁴, W. Hu⁶⁸, W. Huang⁴,
 Z.C. Huard⁶¹, W. Hulsbergen²⁹, T. Humair⁵⁷, M. Hushchyn⁷⁴, D. Hutchcroft⁵⁶, D. Hynds²⁹,
 P. Ibis¹², M. Idzik³², P. Ilten⁴⁹, A. Inglese³⁵, A. Inyakin⁴¹, K. Ivshin³⁵, R. Jacobsson⁴⁴,
 S. Jakobsen⁴⁴, J. Jalocha⁵⁹, E. Jans²⁹, B.K. Jashal⁷⁶, A. Jawahery⁶², F. Jiang³, M. John⁵⁹,
 D. Johnson⁴⁴, C.R. Jones⁵¹, C. Joram⁴⁴, B. Jost⁴⁴, N. Jurik⁵⁹, S. Kandybei⁴⁷, M. Karacson⁴⁴,
 J.M. Kariuki⁵⁰, S. Karodia⁵⁵, N. Kazeev⁷⁴, M. Kecke¹⁴, F. Keizer⁵¹, M. Kelsey⁶³, M. Kenzie⁵¹,
 T. Ketel³⁰, B. Khanji⁴⁴, A. Kharisova⁷⁵, C. Khurewathanakul⁴⁵, K.E. Kim⁶³, T. Kirn¹¹,
 V.S. Kirsebom⁴⁵, S. Klaver²⁰, K. Klimaszewski³³, S. Koliiev⁴⁸, M. Kolpin¹⁴, A. Kondybayeva⁷³,
 A. Konoplyannikov³⁶, R. Kopecna¹⁴, P. Koppenburg²⁹, I. Kostiuk^{29,48}, O. Kot⁴⁸,
 S. Kotriakhova³⁵, M. Kozeiha⁷, L. Kravchuk³⁸, M. Kreps⁵², F. Kress⁵⁷, S. Kretzschmar¹¹,
 P. Krokovny^{40,x}, W. Krupa³², W. Krzemien³³, W. Kucewicz^{31,l}, M. Kucharczyk³¹,
 V. Kudryavtsev^{40,x}, G.J. Kunde⁷⁸, A.K. Kuonen⁴⁵, T. Kvaratskheliya³⁶, D. Lacarrere⁴⁴,
 G. Lafferty⁵⁸, A. Lai²⁴, D. Lancierini⁴⁶, G. Lanfranchi²⁰, C. Langenbruch¹¹, T. Latham⁵²,
 C. Lazzeroni⁴⁹, R. Le Gac⁸, R. Lefèvre⁷, A. Leflat³⁷, F. Lemaitre⁴⁴, O. Leroy⁸, T. Lesiak³¹,
 B. Leverington¹⁴, H. Li⁶⁶, P.-R. Li^{4,ab}, X. Li⁷⁸, Y. Li⁵, Z. Li⁶³, X. Liang⁶³, T. Likhomanenko⁷²,
 R. Lindner⁴⁴, F. Lionetto⁴⁶, V. Lisovsky⁹, G. Liu⁶⁶, X. Liu³, D. Loh⁵², A. Loi²⁴,
 J. Lomba Castro⁴³, I. Longstaff⁵⁵, J.H. Lopes², G. Loustau⁴⁶, G.H. Lovell⁵¹, D. Lucchesi^{25,o},
 M. Lucio Martinez⁴³, Y. Luo³, A. Lupato²⁵, E. Luppi^{18,g}, O. Lupton⁵², A. Lusiani²⁶, X. Lyu⁴,
 F. Machefert⁹, F. Maciuc³⁴, V. Macko⁴⁵, P. Mackowiak¹², S. Maddrell-Mander⁵⁰, O. Maev^{35,44},
 K. Maguire⁵⁸, D. Maisuzenko³⁵, M.W. Majewski³², S. Malde⁵⁹, B. Malecki⁴⁴, A. Malinin⁷²,
 T. Maltsev^{40,x}, H. Malygina¹⁴, G. Manca^{24,f}, G. Mancinelli⁸, D. Marangotto^{23,q}, J. Maratas^{7,w},
 J.F. Marchand⁶, U. Marconi¹⁷, C. Marin Benito⁹, M. Marinangeli⁴⁵, P. Marino⁴⁵, J. Marks¹⁴,
 P.J. Marshall⁵⁶, G. Martellotti²⁸, L. Martinazzoli⁴⁴, M. Martinelli^{44,22,i}, D. Martinez Santos⁴³,
 F. Martinez Vidal⁷⁶, A. Massafferri¹, M. Materok¹¹, R. Matev⁴⁴, A. Mathad⁴⁶, Z. Mathe⁴⁴,
 V. Matiunin³⁶, C. Matteuzzi²², K.R. Mattioli⁷⁷, A. Mauri⁴⁶, E. Maurice^{9,b}, B. Maurin⁴⁵,
 M. McCann^{57,44}, A. McNab⁵⁸, R. McNulty¹⁵, J.V. Mead⁵⁶, B. Meadows⁶¹, C. Meaux⁸,
 N. Meinert⁷⁰, D. Melnychuk³³, M. Merk²⁹, A. Merli^{23,q}, E. Michielin²⁵, D.A. Milanes⁶⁹,
 E. Millard⁵², M.-N. Minard⁶, O. Mineev³⁶, L. Minzoni^{18,g}, D.S. Mitzel¹⁴, A. Mödden¹²,
 A. Mogini¹⁰, R.D. Moise⁵⁷, T. Mombächer¹², I.A. Monroy⁶⁹, S. Monteil⁷, M. Morandin²⁵,
 G. Morello²⁰, M.J. Morello^{26,t}, J. Moron³², A.B. Morris⁸, R. Mountain⁶³, H. Mu³, F. Muheim⁵⁴,
 M. Mukherjee⁶⁸, M. Mulder²⁹, D. Müller⁴⁴, J. Müller¹², K. Müller⁴⁶, V. Müller¹²,
 C.H. Murphy⁵⁹, D. Murray⁵⁸, P. Naik⁵⁰, T. Nakada⁴⁵, R. Nandakumar⁵³, A. Nandi⁵⁹,
 T. Nanut⁴⁵, I. Nasteva², M. Needham⁵⁴, N. Neri^{23,q}, S. Neubert¹⁴, N. Neufeld⁴⁴,
 R. Newcombe⁵⁷, T.D. Nguyen⁴⁵, C. Nguyen-Mau^{45,n}, S. Nieswand¹¹, R. Niet¹², N. Nikitin³⁷,
 N.S. Nolte⁴⁴, A. Oblakowska-Mucha³², V. Obraztsov⁴¹, S. Ogilvy⁵⁵, D.P. O'Hanlon¹⁷,
 R. Oldeman^{24,f}, C.J.G. Onderwater⁷¹, J. D. Osborn⁷⁷, A. Ossowska³¹, J.M. Otalora Goicochea²,
 T. Ovsiannikova³⁶, P. Owen⁴⁶, A. Oyanguren⁷⁶, P.R. Pais⁴⁵, T. Pajero^{26,t}, A. Palano¹⁶,
 M. Palutan²⁰, G. Panshin⁷⁵, A. Papanestis⁵³, M. Pappagallo⁵⁴, L.L. Pappalardo^{18,g},
 W. Parker⁶², C. Parkes^{58,44}, G. Passaleva^{19,44}, A. Pastore¹⁶, M. Patel⁵⁷, C. Patrignani^{17,e},
 A. Pearce⁴⁴, A. Pellegrino²⁹, G. Penso²⁸, M. Pepe Altarelli⁴⁴, S. Perazzini¹⁷, D. Pereima³⁶,
 P. Perret⁷, L. Pescatore⁴⁵, K. Petridis⁵⁰, A. Petrolini^{21,h}, A. Petrov⁷², S. Petrucci⁵⁴,
 M. Petruzzio^{23,q}, B. Pietrzyk⁶, G. Pietrzyk⁴⁵, M. Pikies³¹, M. Pili⁵⁹, D. Pinci²⁸, J. Pinzino⁴⁴,

F. Pisani⁴⁴, A. Piucci¹⁴, V. Placinta³⁴, S. Playfer⁵⁴, J. Plews⁴⁹, M. Plo Casasus⁴³, F. Polci¹⁰, M. Poli Lener²⁰, M. Poliakov⁶³, A. Poluektov⁸, N. Polukhina^{73,c}, I. Polyakov⁶³, E. Polcarpo², G.J. Pomery⁵⁰, S. Ponce⁴⁴, A. Popov⁴¹, D. Popov⁴⁹, S. Poslavskii⁴¹, E. Price⁵⁰, C. Prouve⁴³, V. Pugatch⁴⁸, A. Puig Navarro⁴⁶, H. Pullen⁵⁹, G. Punzi^{26,p}, W. Qian⁴, J. Qin⁴, R. Quagliani¹⁰, B. Quintana⁷, N.V. Raab¹⁵, B. Rachwal³², J.H. Rademacker⁵⁰, M. Rama²⁶, M. Ramos Pernas⁴³, M.S. Rangel², F. Ratnikov^{39,74}, G. Raven³⁰, M. Ravonel Salzgeber⁴⁴, M. Reboud⁶, F. Redi⁴⁵, S. Reichert¹², F. Reiss¹⁰, C. Remon Alepuz⁷⁶, Z. Ren³, V. Renaudin⁵⁹, S. Ricciardi⁵³, S. Richards⁵⁰, K. Rinnert⁵⁶, P. Robbe⁹, A. Robert¹⁰, A.B. Rodrigues⁴⁵, E. Rodrigues⁶¹, J.A. Rodriguez Lopez⁶⁹, M. Roehrken⁴⁴, S. Roiser⁴⁴, A. Rollings⁵⁹, V. Romanovskiy⁴¹, A. Romero Vidal⁴³, J.D. Roth⁷⁷, M. Rotondo²⁰, M.S. Rudolph⁶³, T. Ruf⁴⁴, J. Ruiz Vidal⁷⁶, J.J. Saborido Silva⁴³, N. Sagidova³⁵, B. Saitta^{24,f}, V. Salustino Guimaraes⁶⁵, C. Sanchez Gras²⁹, C. Sanchez Mayordomo⁷⁶, B. Sanmartin Sedes⁴³, R. Santacesaria²⁸, C. Santamarina Rios⁴³, M. Santimaria^{20,44}, E. Santovetti^{27,j}, G. Sarpis⁵⁸, A. Sarti^{20,k}, C. Satriano^{28,s}, A. Satta²⁷, M. Saur⁴, D. Savrina^{36,37}, S. Schael¹¹, M. Schellenberg¹², M. Schiller⁵⁵, H. Schindler⁴⁴, M. Schmelling¹³, T. Schmelzer¹², B. Schmidt⁴⁴, O. Schneider⁴⁵, A. Schopper⁴⁴, H.F. Schreiner⁶¹, M. Schubiger²⁹, S. Schulte⁴⁵, M.H. Schune⁹, R. Schwemmer⁴⁴, B. Sciascia²⁰, A. Sciubba^{28,k}, A. Semennikov³⁶, E.S. Sepulveda¹⁰, A. Sergi^{49,44}, N. Serra⁴⁶, J. Serrano⁸, L. Sestini²⁵, A. Seuthe¹², P. Seyfert⁴⁴, M. Shapkin⁴¹, T. Shears⁵⁶, L. Shekhtman^{40,x}, V. Shevchenko⁷², E. Shmanin⁷³, B.G. Siddi¹⁸, R. Silva Coutinho⁴⁶, L. Silva de Oliveira², G. Simi^{25,o}, S. Simone^{16,d}, I. Skiba¹⁸, N. Skidmore¹⁴, T. Skwarnicki⁶³, M.W. Slater⁴⁹, J.G. Smeaton⁵¹, E. Smith¹¹, I.T. Smith⁵⁴, M. Smith⁵⁷, M. Soares¹⁷, I. Soares Lavra¹, M.D. Sokoloff⁶¹, F.J.P. Soler⁵⁵, B. Souza De Paula², B. Spaan¹², E. Spadaro Norella^{23,q}, P. Spradlin⁵⁵, F. Stagni⁴⁴, M. Stahl¹⁴, S. Stahl⁴⁴, P. Stefko⁴⁵, S. Stefkova⁵⁷, O. Steinkamp⁴⁶, S. Stemmle¹⁴, O. Stenyakin⁴¹, M. Stepanova³⁵, H. Stevens¹², A. Stocchi⁹, S. Stone⁶³, S. Stracka²⁶, M.E. Stramaglia⁴⁵, M. Straticiu³⁴, U. Straumann⁴⁶, S. Strokov⁷⁵, J. Sun³, L. Sun⁶⁷, Y. Sun⁶², K. Swientek³², A. Szabelski³³, T. Szumlak³², M. Szymanski⁴, Z. Tang³, T. Tekampe¹², G. Tellarini¹⁸, F. Teubert⁴⁴, E. Thomas⁴⁴, M.J. Tilley⁵⁷, V. Tisserand⁷, S. T'Jampens⁶, M. Tobin⁵, S. Tolk⁴⁴, L. Tomassetti^{18,g}, D. Tonelli²⁶, D.Y. Tou¹⁰, E. Tournefier⁶, M. Traill⁵⁵, M.T. Tran⁴⁵, A. Trisovic⁵¹, A. Tsaregorodtsev⁸, G. Tuci^{26,44,p}, A. Tully⁵¹, N. Tuning²⁹, A. Ukleja³³, A. Usachov⁹, A. Ustyuzhanin^{39,74}, U. Uwer¹⁴, A. Vagner⁷⁵, V. Vagnoni¹⁷, A. Valassi⁴⁴, S. Valat⁴⁴, G. Valenti¹⁷, M. van Beuzekom²⁹, H. Van Hecke⁷⁸, E. van Herwijnen⁴⁴, C.B. Van Hulse¹⁵, J. van Tilburg²⁹, M. van Veghel²⁹, R. Vazquez Gomez⁴⁴, P. Vazquez Regueiro⁴³, C. Vázquez Sierra²⁹, S. Vecchi¹⁸, J.J. Velthuis⁵⁰, M. Veltri^{19,r}, A. Venkateswaran⁶³, M. Vernet⁷, M. Veronesi²⁹, M. Vesterinen⁵², J.V. Viana Barbosa⁴⁴, D. Vieira⁴, M. Vieites Diaz⁴³, H. Viemann⁷⁰, X. Vilasis-Cardona^{42,m}, A. Vitkovskiy²⁹, M. Vitti⁵¹, V. Volkov³⁷, A. Vollhardt⁴⁶, D. Vom Bruch¹⁰, B. Voneki⁴⁴, A. Vorobyev³⁵, V. Vorobyev^{40,x}, N. Voropaev³⁵, R. Waldi⁷⁰, J. Walsh²⁶, J. Wang³, J. Wang⁵, M. Wang³, Y. Wang⁶⁸, Z. Wang⁴⁶, D.R. Ward⁵¹, H.M. Wark⁵⁶, N.K. Watson⁴⁹, D. Websdale⁵⁷, A. Weiden⁴⁶, C. Weisser⁶⁰, M. Whitehead¹¹, G. Wilkinson⁵⁹, M. Wilkinson⁶³, I. Williams⁵¹, M. Williams⁶⁰, M.R.J. Williams⁵⁸, T. Williams⁴⁹, F.F. Wilson⁵³, M. Winn⁹, W. Wislicki³³, M. Witek³¹, G. Wormser⁹, S.A. Wotton⁵¹, K. Wyllie⁴⁴, D. Xiao⁶⁸, Y. Xie⁶⁸, H. Xing⁶⁶, A. Xu³, L. Xu³, M. Xu⁶⁸, Q. Xu⁴, Z. Xu⁶, Z. Xu³, Z. Yang³, Z. Yang⁶², Y. Yao⁶³, L.E. Yeomans⁵⁶, H. Yin⁶⁸, J. Yu^{68,aa}, X. Yuan⁶³, O. Yushchenko⁴¹, K.A. Zarebski⁴⁹, M. Zavertyaev^{13,c}, M. Zeng³, D. Zhang⁶⁸, L. Zhang³, S. Zhang³, W.C. Zhang^{3,z}, Y. Zhang⁴⁴, A. Zhelezov¹⁴, Y. Zheng⁴, X. Zhu³, V. Zhukov^{11,37}, J.B. Zonneveld⁵⁴, S. Zucchelli^{17,e}.

¹Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas (CBPF), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

²Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

³Center for High Energy Physics, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

⁴University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China

⁵Institute Of High Energy Physics (ihep), Beijing, China

- ⁶ *Univ. Grenoble Alpes, Univ. Savoie Mont Blanc, CNRS, IN2P3-LAPP, Annecy, France*
- ⁷ *Université Clermont Auvergne, CNRS/IN2P3, LPC, Clermont-Ferrand, France*
- ⁸ *Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS/IN2P3, CPPM, Marseille, France*
- ⁹ *LAL, Univ. Paris-Sud, CNRS/IN2P3, Université Paris-Saclay, Orsay, France*
- ¹⁰ *LPNHE, Sorbonne Université, Paris Diderot Sorbonne Paris Cité, CNRS/IN2P3, Paris, France*
- ¹¹ *I. Physikalisches Institut, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany*
- ¹² *Fakultät Physik, Technische Universität Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany*
- ¹³ *Max-Planck-Institut für Kernphysik (MPIK), Heidelberg, Germany*
- ¹⁴ *Physikalisches Institut, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany*
- ¹⁵ *School of Physics, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland*
- ¹⁶ *INFN Sezione di Bari, Bari, Italy*
- ¹⁷ *INFN Sezione di Bologna, Bologna, Italy*
- ¹⁸ *INFN Sezione di Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy*
- ¹⁹ *INFN Sezione di Firenze, Firenze, Italy*
- ²⁰ *INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy*
- ²¹ *INFN Sezione di Genova, Genova, Italy*
- ²² *INFN Sezione di Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy*
- ²³ *INFN Sezione di Milano, Milano, Italy*
- ²⁴ *INFN Sezione di Cagliari, Monserrato, Italy*
- ²⁵ *INFN Sezione di Padova, Padova, Italy*
- ²⁶ *INFN Sezione di Pisa, Pisa, Italy*
- ²⁷ *INFN Sezione di Roma Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy*
- ²⁸ *INFN Sezione di Roma La Sapienza, Roma, Italy*
- ²⁹ *Nikhef National Institute for Subatomic Physics, Amsterdam, Netherlands*
- ³⁰ *Nikhef National Institute for Subatomic Physics and VU University Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands*
- ³¹ *Henryk Niewodniczanski Institute of Nuclear Physics Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków, Poland*
- ³² *AGH - University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Physics and Applied Computer Science, Kraków, Poland*
- ³³ *National Center for Nuclear Research (NCBJ), Warsaw, Poland*
- ³⁴ *Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Bucharest-Magurele, Romania*
- ³⁵ *Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute NRC Kurchatov Institute (PNPI NRC KI), Gatchina, Russia*
- ³⁶ *Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Physics NRC Kurchatov Institute (ITEP NRC KI), Moscow, Russia, Moscow, Russia*
- ³⁷ *Institute of Nuclear Physics, Moscow State University (SINP MSU), Moscow, Russia*
- ³⁸ *Institute for Nuclear Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences (INR RAS), Moscow, Russia*
- ³⁹ *Yandex School of Data Analysis, Moscow, Russia*
- ⁴⁰ *Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics (SB RAS), Novosibirsk, Russia*
- ⁴¹ *Institute for High Energy Physics NRC Kurchatov Institute (IHEP NRC KI), Protvino, Russia, Protvino, Russia*
- ⁴² *ICCUB, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain*
- ⁴³ *Instituto Galego de Física de Altas Enerxías (IGFAE), Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain*
- ⁴⁴ *European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Geneva, Switzerland*
- ⁴⁵ *Institute of Physics, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Lausanne, Switzerland*
- ⁴⁶ *Physik-Institut, Universität Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland*
- ⁴⁷ *NSC Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology (NSC KIPT), Kharkiv, Ukraine*
- ⁴⁸ *Institute for Nuclear Research of the National Academy of Sciences (KINR), Kyiv, Ukraine*
- ⁴⁹ *University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom*
- ⁵⁰ *H.H. Wills Physics Laboratory, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom*
- ⁵¹ *Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom*
- ⁵² *Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom*
- ⁵³ *STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom*
- ⁵⁴ *School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom*
- ⁵⁵ *School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom*
- ⁵⁶ *Oliver Lodge Laboratory, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom*

- ⁵⁷ Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom
⁵⁸ School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom
⁵⁹ Department of Physics, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom
⁶⁰ Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, United States
⁶¹ University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, United States
⁶² University of Maryland, College Park, MD, United States
⁶³ Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, United States
⁶⁴ Laboratory of Mathematical and Subatomic Physics, Constantine, Algeria, associated to ²
⁶⁵ Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, associated to ²
⁶⁶ South China Normal University, Guangzhou, China, associated to ³
⁶⁷ School of Physics and Technology, Wuhan University, Wuhan, China, associated to ³
⁶⁸ Institute of Particle Physics, Central China Normal University, Wuhan, Hubei, China, associated to ³
⁶⁹ Departamento de Física, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogota, Colombia, associated to ¹⁰
⁷⁰ Institut für Physik, Universität Rostock, Rostock, Germany, associated to ¹⁴
⁷¹ Van Swinderen Institute, University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands, associated to ²⁹
⁷² National Research Centre Kurchatov Institute, Moscow, Russia, associated to ³⁶
⁷³ National University of Science and Technology “MISIS”, Moscow, Russia, associated to ³⁶
⁷⁴ National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia, associated to ³⁹
⁷⁵ National Research Tomsk Polytechnic University, Tomsk, Russia, associated to ³⁶
⁷⁶ Instituto de Física Corpuscular, Centro Mixto Universidad de Valencia - CSIC, Valencia, Spain, associated to ⁴²
⁷⁷ University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, United States, associated to ⁶³
⁷⁸ Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Los Alamos, United States, associated to ⁶³

^a Universidade Federal do Triângulo Mineiro (UFMT), Uberaba-MG, Brazil

^b Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, Palaiseau, France

^c P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Russian Academy of Science (LPI RAS), Moscow, Russia

^d Università di Bari, Bari, Italy

^e Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

^f Università di Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy

^g Università di Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy

^h Università di Genova, Genova, Italy

ⁱ Università di Milano Bicocca, Milano, Italy

^j Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy

^k Università di Roma La Sapienza, Roma, Italy

^l AGH - University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Computer Science, Electronics and Telecommunications, Kraków, Poland

^m LIFAELS, La Salle, Universitat Ramon Llull, Barcelona, Spain

ⁿ Hanoi University of Science, Hanoi, Vietnam

^o Università di Padova, Padova, Italy

^p Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy

^q Università degli Studi di Milano, Milano, Italy

^r Università di Urbino, Urbino, Italy

^s Università della Basilicata, Potenza, Italy

^t Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, Italy

^u Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy

^v H.H. Wills Physics Laboratory, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom

^w MSU - Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT), Iligan, Philippines

^x Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk, Russia

^y Sezione INFN di Trieste, Trieste, Italy

^z School of Physics and Information Technology, Shaanxi Normal University (SNNU), Xi'an, China

^{aa} Physics and Micro Electronic College, Hunan University, Changsha City, China

^{ab} Lanzhou University, Lanzhou, China

† Deceased