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The ATLAS Collaboration

Abstract

A measurement of the cross section of top quark pair production in proton–proton collisions recorded with the ATLAS detector at the LHC at a centre-of-mass energy of 7 TeV is reported. The data sample used corresponds to an integrated luminosity of 2.05 fb\(^{-1}\). Events with an isolated electron or muon and a \( \tau \) lepton decaying hadronically are used. In addition, a large missing transverse momentum and two or more energetic jets are required. At least one of the jets must be identified as originating from a \( b \) quark. The measured cross section, \( \sigma_{\tau} = 186 \pm 13 \) (stat.) \( \pm 20 \) (syst.) \( \pm 7 \) (lumi.) pb, is in good agreement with the Standard Model prediction.
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Keywords: top-quark physics, cross section, lepton

1. Introduction

Measuring the top quark pair ($tt$) production cross section ($\sigma_{tt}$) in different decay channels is of interest because it can open a window to physics beyond the Standard Model (SM). In the SM, the top quark decays with a branching ratio close to 100% into a $W$ boson and a $b$ quark, and $tt$ pairs are identified by either the hadronic or leptonic decays of the $W$ bosons and the presence of additional jets. ATLAS has previously used the single-lepton channel [1] and the dilepton channels including only electrons and muons [2] to perform cross-section measurements.

The large cross section for $tt$ production at the LHC provides an opportunity to measure $\sigma_{tt}$ using final states with an electron or a muon and a $\tau$ lepton with high precision. The $\sigma_{tt}$ in this channel has been measured at the Tevatron with 25% precision [3] and recently by the CMS Collaboration at the LHC with 18% precision [4]. A deviation from $\sigma_{tt}$ measured in other channels would be an indication of non-Standard Model decays of the top quark, such as a decay to a charged Higgs ($H^+$) and a $b$ quark with $H^+$ decaying to a $\tau$ lepton and a $\tau$ neutrino, or contributions from non-Standard Model processes [3,4,5]. ATLAS has set upper limits on the branching ratio of top quark pairs to an $H^+$ bosons decaying to a $\tau$ lepton and a neutrino [6].

This analysis uses 2.05 fb$^{-1}$ of data collected by ATLAS at the LHC from $pp$ collisions at a centre-of-mass energy of 7 TeV between March and August 2011. After application of kinematic selection criteria that require one top quark to decay via $W \rightarrow \ell \nu$ (where $\ell$ is either a muon or an electron) and identification of a jet as originating from a $b$ quark ($b$-tag), the dominant background to the $tt \rightarrow \ell + \tau + X$ channels with the $\tau$ lepton decaying hadronically is the $tt \rightarrow \ell +$ jets channel in which a jet is misidentified as a hadronic $\tau$ lepton decay. Therefore, $\tau$ lepton identification ($\tau$ ID) is critical for separating signal and background. The $\tau$ ID methodology employed in this analysis exploits a multivariate technique to build a discriminant [9]. A boosted decision tree (BDT) algorithm is used [10]. The results are checked using an alternative method, referred to as the “matrix method”, based on a cut on the BDT output.

2. ATLAS Detector

The ATLAS detector [11] at the LHC covers nearly the entire solid angle around the collision point. It consists of an inner tracking detector surrounded by a thin superconducting solenoid, electromagnetic (EM) and hadronic calorimeters, and an external muon spectrometer incorporating three large superconducting toroid magnet assemblies. The inner tracking detector provides tracking information in a pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 2.5$. The liquid-argon (LAr) EM sampling calorimeters cover a range of $|\eta| < 3.2$ with fine granularity. An iron-scintillator tile calorimeter provides hadronic energy measurements in the central rapidity range ($|\eta| < 1.7$). The endcap and forward regions are instrumented with LAr calorimeters for both EM and hadronic energy measurements covering $|\eta| < 4.9$. The muon spectrometer provides precise tracking information in a range of $|\eta| < 2.7$.

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1 Atlas uses a right-handed coordinate system with its origin at the nominal interaction point in the centre of the detector and the $z$-axis along the beam pipe. The $x$-axis points to the centre of the LHC ring, and the $y$-axis points upwards. The azimuthal angle $\phi$ is measured around the beam axis and the polar angle $\theta$ is the angle from the beam axis. The pseudorapidity is defined as $\eta = -\ln[\tan(\theta/2)]$. The distance $\Delta R$ in $\eta - \phi$ space is defined as $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\phi)^2 + (\Delta\eta)^2}$. 

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Preprint submitted to Elsevier

May 10, 2012
ATLAS uses a three-level trigger system to select events. The level-1 trigger is implemented in hardware using a subset of detector information to reduce the event rate below 75 kHz. This is followed by two software based-trigger levels, level-2 and the event filter, which together reduce the event rate to about 300 Hz recorded for analysis.

3. Simulated Event Samples

Monte Carlo (MC) simulation samples are used to optimise selection procedures, to calculate the signal acceptance and to evaluate contributions from some background processes.

For the $\bar{t}$ and single top-quark final states, the next-to-leading-order (NLO) generator MC@NLO [12] is used with a top-quark mass of 172.5 GeV and with the NLO parton distribution function (PDF) set CTEQ6.6 [13]. The “diagram removal scheme” is used to remove overlaps between the single top-quark and the $\bar{t}$ final states. The $\bar{t}$ cross section is normalised to the prediction of HATHOR (164\pm 11 pb) [14], which employs an approximate next-to-next-to-leading-order (NNLO) perturbative QCD calculation.

For the background channels, MC samples of $WZ$, single top-quark events and diboson $WW$, $WZ$, and $ZZ$ events (all in association with jets) are used. $W+\text{jets}$ events and $Z/\gamma^{*}+\text{jets}$ events (with dilepton invariant mass $m_{ll} > 40$ GeV) are generated by the ALPGEN generator [15] with up to five outgoing partons from the hard scattering process, in addition to the vector bosons.\footnote{The fraction of events with $m_{ll} < 40$ GeV is estimated to be less than 0.2% of the total after all selections.} The MLM matching scheme of the ALPGEN generator is used to remove overlaps between matrix-element and parton-shower products. Parton evolution and hadronisation is handled by HERWIG [16], as is the generation of diboson events. The leading-order PDF set CTEQ6L is used for all backgrounds described above.

All samples that use HERWIG for parton shower evolution and hadronisation rely on JIMMY [17] for the underlying event model. The $\tau$-lepton decays are handled by TAUOLA [18]. The effect of multiple $pp$ interactions per bunch crossing (“pile-up”) is modelled by overlaying simulated minimum bias events over the original hard-scattering event [19]. MC events are then reweighted so that the distribution of interactions per crossing in the MC simulation matches that observed in data. The average number of pile-up events in the sample is 6.3. After event generation, all samples are processed with the GEANT4 [20] simulation of the ATLAS detector, the trigger simulation and are then subject to the same reconstruction algorithms as the data [21].

4. Data and Event Selection

The event selection uses the same object definition as in the $\bar{t}$ cross-section measurement in the dilepton channel [2] with the exception of a $\tau$ candidate instead of a second electron or muon candidate and some minor adjustments. The electrons must be isolated and have $E_{T} > 25$ GeV and $|\eta_{\text{cluster}}| < 2.47$, excluding the barrel-endcap transition region (1.37 < $|\eta_{\text{cluster}}|$ < 1.52), where $E_{T}$ is the transverse energy and $|\eta_{\text{cluster}}|$ is the pseudorapidity of the calorimeter energy cluster associated with the candidate.

The electron is defined as isolated if the $E_{T}$ deposited in the calorimeter and not associated with the electron in a cone in $\eta$-$\phi$ space of radius $\Delta R = 0.2$ is less than 4 GeV. The muons must also be isolated and have $p_{T} > 20$ GeV and $|\eta|$ < 2.5. For isolated muons, both the corresponding $E_{T}$ and the analogous track isolation transverse momentum ($p_{T}$) must be less than 4 GeV in a cone of $\Delta R = 0.3$. The track isolation $p_{T}$ is calculated from the sum of the track transverse momenta for tracks with $p_{T} > 1$ GeV around the muon. Jets are reconstructed with the anti-$k_{t}$ algorithm [22] with a radius parameter $R = 0.4$, starting from energy deposits (clusters) in the calorimeter reconstructed using the scale established for electromagnetic objects. These jets are then calibrated to the hadronic energy scale using $p_{T}$- and $\eta$-dependent correction factors obtained from simulation [23]. The jet candidates are required to have $p_{T} > 25$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.5$. Jets identified as originating from a b quark ($b$-tag) by a vertex tagging algorithm are those that pass a decay length significance cut corresponding to an efficiency of 70% for b-quark jets from $\bar{t}$ events and a 1% efficiency for light-quark and gluon jets [2, 24].

The missing transverse momentum is constructed from the vector sum of all calorimeter cells with $|\eta|$ < 4.5, projected onto the transverse plane. Its magnitude is denoted $E_{T}^{\text{miss}}$. The hadronic energy scale is used for the energies of cells associated with jets; $\tau$ candidates are treated as jets. Contributions from cells associated with electrons employ the electromagnetic energy calibration. Contributions from the $p_{T}$ of muon tracks are included, removing the contributions of any calorimeter cells associated with the muon.

4.1. $\tau$ Reconstruction and Identification

The reconstruction and identification of hadronically decaying $\tau$ leptons proceeds as follows:

1. the $\tau$ candidate reconstruction starts by considering each jet as a $\tau$ candidate;
2. energy clusters in the calorimeter associated with the $\tau$ candidate are used to calculate kinematic quantities (such as $E_{T}$) and the associated tracks are found;
3. identification variables are calculated from the tracking and calorimeter information;
4. these variables are combined into multivariate discriminants and the outputs of the discriminants are used to separate jets and electrons misidentified as $\tau$ leptons decaying hadronically from $\tau$ leptons.

Details are given in Ref. 9. In this analysis the outputs of BDT discriminants are used.

Reconstructed $\tau$ candidates are required to have $20$ GeV < $E_{T}$ < 100 GeV. They must also have $|\eta| < 2.3$, and one, two or three associated tracks. A track is associated with the $\tau$ candidate if it has $p_{T} > 1$ GeV and is inside a cone of $\Delta R < 0.4$ around the jet axis. The associated track with highest $p_{T}$ must
have $p_T > 4$ GeV. The charge is given by the sum of the charges of the associated tracks, and is required to be non-zero. The probability of misidentifying the $\tau$ lepton charge sign is about 1%. The charge misidentification rate for muons and electrons is negligible.

If the $\tau$ candidate overlaps with a muon ($p_T > 4$ GeV, no isolation required) or an electron candidate within $\Delta R(\ell, \tau) < 0.4$, the $\tau$ candidate is removed. To remove electrons misidentified as $\tau$ leptons, an additional criterion is used that relies on a BDT trained to separate $\tau$ leptons and electrons (BDT$_{\tau}$) using seven variables shown to be well modelled by comparing $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ and $Z \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ events in data and in MC simulation. The variables were chosen after ranging a large set by their effectiveness.$^3$ The most effective variables for BDT$_{\tau}$ are $E/p$, the EM fraction (the ratio of the $\tau$ candidate energy measured in the EM calorimeter to the total $\tau$ candidate energy measured in the calorimeter), and the cluster-based shower width. The BDT output tends to be near 1 (0) if the $\tau$ lepton (electron). The $\tau$ candidate is required to satisfy BDT$_{\tau} > 0.51$; 85% of reconstructed $\tau$ leptons decaying hadronically satisfy that requirement as measured in $Z \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ events. The additional rejection for electrons is a factor of 60.

The majority of objects reconstructed as $\tau$ candidates in a multi-jet environment are jets misidentified as $\tau$ leptons (fake $\tau$). Another BDT (BDT$_{\ell}$) based on eight variables is used to separate $\tau$ leptons in $\tau$ candidates with one track (denoted $\tau_1$) from such jets. For candidates with more than one track (denoted $\tau_3$) BDT$_{\ell}$ includes ten variables. The most effective variables for BDT$_{\ell}$ are calorimeter and track isolation, cluster-based jet mass, and the fraction of energy within $\Delta R = 0.1$ of the jet axis. The BDT$_{\ell}$ distributions are fit with templates for background and signal to extract the number of $\tau$ leptons in the sample. Details are given in Section 6. The fake $\tau$ background in the $\tau_1$ sample is significantly higher than in the $\tau_3$ sample, leading to very different BDT$_{\ell}$ distributions. Hence independent measurements are carried out for $\tau_1$ and $\tau_3$ candidate events and the results are combined at the end. If there is a $\tau_1$ and a $\tau_3$ candidate in the event, the $\tau_1$ candidate is kept as the probability that the $\tau_1$ is a $\tau$ lepton is much higher. If there are two $\tau_1$ or $\tau_3$ candidates, both are kept.

### 4.2. Event Selection

For this analysis, events are selected using a single-muon trigger with a $p_T$ threshold of 18 GeV or a single-electron trigger with a $p_T$ threshold of 20 GeV, rising to 22 GeV during periods of high instantaneous luminosity. The offline requirements are based on data quality criteria and optimised using Monte Carlo simulation:

- a primary vertex with at least five tracks, each with $p_T > 400$ MeV, associated with it;
- one and only one isolated high-$p_T$ muon and no identified electrons for the $\mu+\tau$ channel, or one and only one isolated electron and no isolated muons for the $e+\tau$ channel;
- at least one $\tau$ candidate (as defined in Section 5.1);
- at least two jets not overlapping with a $\tau$ candidate, i.e. $\Delta R(\tau, \text{jet}) > 0.4$;
- $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}} > 30$ GeV to reduce the multi-jet background, and the scalar sum of the $p_T$ of the leptons (including $\tau$), jets, and $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$ must be greater then 200 GeV, to reduce the $W+$jets background.

The $\ell+\tau$ samples are divided into events with no jets identified as a $b$-quark jet (0 $b$-tag control sample) and those with at least one such jet ($\geq 1$ $b$-tag $\ell$ sample). The 0 $b$-tag sample is used to estimate the background in the $\geq 1$ $b$-tag $\ell$ sample. Each sample is split into two, one with the $\tau$ candidate and $\ell$ having the opposite sign charge (OS), and the other one with $\tau$ and $\ell$ having the same sign charge (SS). While the $\tau$ candidates in the SS samples are almost all fake $\tau$ leptons, the OS samples have a mixture of $\tau$ leptons and fake $\tau$ leptons. The numbers of observed and expected events in the above samples are shown in Table 1. All processes contribute more events to OS than SS because of the correlation between a leading-quark charge and the lepton charge, except for the multi-jet channel contribution which has equal number of OS and SS events within the uncertainties. The $\ell+$jets entry includes the contribution from events with $\tau$ leptons when the $\tau$ candidate is actually a fake $\tau$. The $\tau$ entries require the reconstructed $\tau$ candidate be matched to a generated $\tau$ lepton. The matching criterion is $\Delta R < 0.1$ between the $\tau$ candidate and the observable component of the generated $\tau$ lepton.

To estimate the multi-jet background from data, an event selection identical to the $\mu+\tau$ ($e+\tau$) event selection except for an inverted muon (electron) isolation cut is used to obtain a multi-jet template for the shape of the transverse mass, $m_T$. The normalization of each selected data sample is obtained by fitting the $m_T$ distribution of the selected data samples with the multi-jet template and the sum of non-multi-jet processes predicted by MC, allowing the amount of both to float. The uncertainty on the multi-jet background is estimated to be 30%. However, because of the subtraction method discussed in Section 5 the multi-jet background plays no role in the cross-section measurement. There are small differences between the total number of events predicted and observed which motivate using data as much as possible to estimate the background.

As one can see from Table II the $\tau$ leptons are almost all in the OS sample and come mainly from two sources: $Z \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$, which is the dominant source in the sample with 0 $b$-tag, and $W \rightarrow \ell + \tau + X$ which is the dominant source in the sample $\geq 1$ $b$-tag. The sources of fake $\tau$ leptons are also quite distinct between the 0 $b$-tag and the $\geq 1$ $b$-tag samples: the first is mainly $W/Z+$jets with small contributions from other channels, the second is mainly $\ell$.

\footnote{4\text{m}_T = \sqrt{(E_{\text{T}}^\ell + E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}})^2 - (p_{T,\text{jet}} + E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}})^2}.$}
Table 1: Number of $\ell + \tau$ candidates for Monte Carlo samples and data. $\bar{\tau}(\ell + \tau)$ are $\bar{\tau}$ events with one identified lepton and an electron reconstructed as a $\tau$ candidate. $\bar{\tau}(\ell + j)$ are $\bar{\tau}$ events with one identified lepton and a jet reconstructed as a $\tau$ candidate. $\ell + j$-events are events with one identified lepton and a jet reconstructed as a $\tau$ candidate from sources other than $\bar{\tau}$ and multi-jets. Sources contributing to jet fakes are $W$+jets, $Z$+jets, single top-quark and diboson events. $Wt(\ell + \tau)$ is $W + t$ production with one $W$ decaying to $\ell$ and another to $\tau$. Excepting multi-jets the uncertainties are statistical only. MC samples are normalized to the data integrated luminosity.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>$\mu + \tau$</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>$\geq 1$ b-tag</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>$\geq 1$ b-tag</th>
<th>OS</th>
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<tr>
<td>$\bar{\tau}(\mu + \tau)$</td>
<td>60 ± 2</td>
<td>&lt; 1</td>
<td>390 ± 4</td>
<td>2 ± 1</td>
<td>17 ± 1</td>
<td>1 ± 1</td>
<td>118 ± 3</td>
<td>2 ± 1</td>
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<td>$\bar{\tau}(\mu + e)$</td>
<td>308 ± 4</td>
<td>163 ± 3</td>
<td>1528 ± 9</td>
<td>660 ± 6</td>
<td>685 ± 6</td>
<td>443 ± 5</td>
<td>3484 ± 13</td>
<td>2000 ± 10</td>
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<td>496 ± 17</td>
<td>297 ± 13</td>
<td>12230 ± 120</td>
<td>8670 ± 90</td>
<td>1293 ± 28</td>
<td>928 ± 24</td>
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<td>540 ± 160</td>
<td>117 ± 35</td>
<td>150 ± 40</td>
<td>990 ± 300</td>
<td>1120 ± 340</td>
<td>460 ± 140</td>
<td>400 ± 120</td>
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<td>7 ± 1</td>
<td>&lt; 1</td>
<td>18 ± 1</td>
<td>1 ± 1</td>
<td>2 ± 1</td>
<td>&lt; 1</td>
<td>5 ± 1</td>
<td>&lt; 1</td>
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<td>$Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$</td>
<td>301 ± 13</td>
<td>2 ± 1</td>
<td>16 ± 3</td>
<td>&lt; 1</td>
<td>75 ± 7</td>
<td>1 ± 1</td>
<td>3 ± 2</td>
<td>&lt; 1</td>
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<th>OS</th>
<th>SS</th>
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<td>7530 ± 90</td>
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<td>Multi–jets</td>
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<td>9 ± 3</td>
<td>&lt; 1</td>
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<td>$W(\mu + \tau)$</td>
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<td>17 ± 4</td>
<td>&lt; 1</td>
<td>1 ± 1</td>
<td>&lt; 1</td>
<td>5 ± 2</td>
<td>&lt; 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>$Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$</td>
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<td>2 ± 1</td>
<td>15 ± 4</td>
<td>&lt; 1</td>
<td>60 ± 7</td>
<td>1 ± 1</td>
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5. Background Models

The jet origin can strongly influence the $\tau$-lepton fake probability. Due to their narrow shower width and lower track multiplicity, light-quark jets have a higher probability of faking a $\tau$ lepton than other jet types. Thus the BDT$_{\tau}$ distributions have a strong dependence on the jet type. It is therefore crucial to build a background model which properly reflects the jet composition in order to correctly estimate the fake $\tau$ contamination in the signal region. Deriving this background model from control regions in data rather than MC simulation is preferable in order to avoid systematic effects related to jet composition in the MC models.

The gluon component of the fake $\tau$ leptons is charge symmetric; therefore it is expected to have the same shape in SS events as in OS events and should contribute the same number of fake $\tau$ leptons in each sample. The contribution of fake $\tau$ leptons from gluons can be removed by subtracting the distribution of any quantity for SS events from the corresponding distribution for OS events. The multi-jet background also cancels, as can be seen in Table 1. The resulting distributions are labeled OS-SS. Similarly, since each sample is expected to have an almost equal contribution from $b$-jets and $\bar{b}$-jets, the small $b$-jet component should also be removed by OS-SS (asymmetric single $b$ production is negligible compared to $b\bar{b}$ production). The only jet types remaining in the OS-SS distributions are light-quark jets. MC studies indicate that the BDT$_{\tau}$ distributions of $c$-quark jets misidentified as $\tau$ leptons are not noticeably different from those of light-quark jets.

One can construct a background BDT$_{\tau}$ distribution from the 0 $b$-tag data sample by subtracting the expected amount of true $\tau$ signal. The signal is mainly from $Z \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ and can be reliably predicted from MC. A control sample dominated by $W$+jets events is considered as a check. The latter sample is selected by requiring events with a muon and a $\tau$ candidate, no additional jets, $E_T^{miss} > 30$ GeV and 40 GeV < $m_\tau < 100$ GeV. According to MC simulation, in $W$+jets events where exactly one jet is required, 90% of the fake $\tau$ leptons are from light-quark jets and 10% from gluons. This sample is labeled $W + 1$ jet.

The BDT$_{\tau}$ background shapes for the OS-SS 0 $b$-tag and $\geq 1$ $b$-tag data samples are not identical to the $W + 1$ jet distributions for two reasons: (1) the shape depends on the jet multiplicity, (2) different OS/SS ratios are observed in the samples. The dependence on the OS/SS ratio comes from the differences in jet fragmentation for a leading particle with the opposite charge and the same charge as the initial quark. MC studies of the ratio of OS-SS BDT$_{\tau}$ background distributions derived from $W + 1$ jet and $\geq 1$ $b$-tag show that significant corrections are needed (30% for BDT$_{\tau} > 0.8$, a region dominated by the true $\tau$ signal). For the 0 $b$-tag sample the corresponding corrections are much
smaller (5% in the same region). Both the 0 b-tag and the W + 1 jet data samples are used to obtain statistically independent estimates of the background in the ≥ 1 b-tag sample.

Two different approaches are used for constructing backgrounds in the ≥ 1 b-tag data sample. One, used by the fit method (Section 6), is to reweight the BDTj, distribution of the background bin-by-bin using the MC-based ratio of the ≥ 1 b-tag background to the background model. In this case the 0 b-tag sample is preferred as it requires smaller corrections derived from MC simulation; the W + 1 jet is used as a cross check. The other approach is to split the background into bins of some variable within which the shapes of BDTj, distributions of the background model are close to those from the ≥ 1 b-tag background. This approach, used in the Matrix Method cross check (Section 6.1), avoids using MC corrections, but assumes the data and MC simulation behave similarly as function of the binning variable.

6 Fits to BDTj Distributions

The contribution from \( \bar{t} \rightarrow \ell + \tau + X \) signal is derived from the ≥ 1 b-tag data sample by a \( \chi^2 \) fit to the OS-SS BDTj, distribution with a background template and a signal template. The parameters of the fit are the amount of background and the amount of signal. The shapes of the templates are fixed.

Two background templates corrected by MC, as discussed in Section 5, are used: one derived from 0 b-tag data, the other from the W + 1 jet data sample. The signal BDTj, templates for 0 b-tag and ≥ 1 b-tag are derived from \( \tau \) leptons in \( \bar{t} \) and \( Z \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^- \) MC simulation. Contributions to the BDTj, distributions from electrons passing the BDTj cut cannot be distinguished from \( \tau \) leptons so they are treated as part of the signal.

The uncertainty on the background templates is determined by the numbers of data and MC simulated events. The signal template for the 0 b-tag control sample also has non-negligible statistical uncertainty (2% for \( \tau_1 \), 5% for \( \tau_3 \)) because of the low acceptance.

The fitting procedure was tested extensively with MC simulation before applying it to data. In the fits to the ≥ 1 b-tag data, applying MC corrections to the 0 b-tag background template increases the statistical uncertainty but raises the measured cross section by only 1%.

Figure 1 shows the BDTj, (OS-SS) distributions of \( \ell + \tau \) events with 0 b-tag and the 0 b-tag background template after subtracting the expected number of \( \tau \) leptons and applying the MC corrections. The \( \tau \) signal is mostly \( Z \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^- \) events with a small contamination of electrons faking \( \tau \) leptons (from \( \bar{t} \rightarrow \ell + e + X \) and \( Z \rightarrow e^+e^- \)) and a small contribution from \( \bar{t} \rightarrow \ell + \tau + X \). The uncertainty on the background template includes the statistical uncertainty of the correction, the statistical uncertainty from MC and the 0 b-tag data uncertainty.

Figure 2 shows the result of the fit to the ≥ 1 b-tag samples. The \( \tau \) lepton signal is mostly \( \bar{t} \rightarrow \ell + \tau + X \) with a small contamination of misidentified electrons (estimated by applying fake probabilities derived from data), and small contributions from \( Z \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^- \) events and single top-quark events (estimated from MC simulation). These contributions are subtracted from the number of signal events before calculating the cross section. The fit results using the background templates derived from 0 b-tag data and W + 1 jet data are shown in Table 2. The results are consistent with each other within the statistical uncertainties of the background templates. The BDTj, distributions for \( \tau_1 \) and \( \tau_3 \) are fitted separately. The combined \( \ell + \tau_1 \) results are obtained by fitting the sum of the distributions. After adding \( \ell + \tau_1 \) and \( \ell + \tau_3 \) signals obtained from a \( \chi^2 \) fit to the combined \( e + \tau \) and \( \mu + \tau \) distributions and subtracting the small contributions to the signal from \( Z \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^- \), \( Z \rightarrow e^+e^- \) and \( \bar{t} \rightarrow e + \ell \) (given in Table 1) the results are 840 ± 70 (243 ± 60) \( \bar{t} \rightarrow \ell + \tau_1(\tau_3) + X \) events. The uncertainty is from the fit only and does not include systematic uncertainties. The results are in good agreement with the 780 ± 50 (243 ± 60) events obtained with the W + 1 jet background template and consistent with the number expected from MC simulation, 726 ± 19 (217 ± 10). Note that the fit uncertainty is dominated by the uncertainty on the background template, plus the statistical uncertainties of the results with the two different background templates are not strongly correlated.

Figure 3 shows the OS-SS distribution of the number of jets for ≥ 1 b-tag events adding all channels for two BDTj, regions: BDTj, < 0.7, which is dominated by \( \bar{t} \rightarrow \ell + \text{jets} \), and BDTj, >
Figure 2: BDT$\tau_j$ (OS-SS) distributions of $\tau + \tau$ in the $\geq 1$ b-tag sample. The normalisation of each template is derived from a fit to the data. The fitted contributions are shown as the light/red (signal), dashed/blue (background derived from 0 b-tag after applying MC corrections) and dark/black (total) lines. Shaded/blue bands are the statistical uncertainty of the background template.

Table 2: Results of template fits to $\mu + \tau$, $e + \tau$ and the combined BDT$\tau_j$ distributions. The combined results are obtained by fitting the sum of the $\mu + \tau$ and $e + \tau$ BDT$\tau_j$ distributions. The first column gives the channel and the second the $\tau$ type. The third column shows the extracted signal (sum of $\tau$ leptons and electrons misidentified as $\tau$ leptons) with the background template derived from 0 b-tag data distributions. The fourth column shows the extracted signal with the background template derived from $W + 1$ jet. The uncertainties are from the uncertainties in the fit parameters and do not include the systematic uncertainties. The MC columns give the expected $\tau$ signal and the expected number of $\tau \rightarrow \ell + \tau$ events after subtracting the contribution from non-$\tau$ events to the signal, assuming the theoretical $\tau$ cross section (164 pb).

<table>
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<th>Background template</th>
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<td></td>
<td>0 b-tag $W + 1$ jet</td>
<td>Signal</td>
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<tr>
<td>$\mu + \tau$</td>
<td>$\tau_1$</td>
<td>490 ± 40</td>
<td>432</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$\tau_2$</td>
<td>135 ± 33</td>
<td>126</td>
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<td>$e + \tau$</td>
<td>$\tau_1$</td>
<td>440 ± 50</td>
<td>388</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$\tau_2$</td>
<td>116 ± 32</td>
<td>101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combined</td>
<td>$\tau_1$</td>
<td>930 ± 70</td>
<td>820</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$\tau_2$</td>
<td>260 ± 60</td>
<td>239</td>
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0.7, in which the largest contribution is from $\tau \rightarrow \ell + \tau + X$. As expected, the multiplicity of jets peaks at four when BDT$\tau_j < 0.7$ and three when BDT$\tau_j > 0.7$ (the $\tau$ is counted as a jet).

Figure 3 shows the invariant mass of a selected jet with the $\tau$ candidate for BDT$\tau_j < 0.7$ and BDT$\tau_j > 0.7$ for events with a $\tau$ candidate and three or more jets. The selected jet is the highest $p_T$ untagged jet in events with more than one b-tag and the second highest $p_T$ untagged jet in events with one b-tag. The distribution shows clearly the presence of a $W$ decaying to two jets in the BDT$\tau_j < 0.7$ region dominated by $\tilde{\tau} \rightarrow \ell + \tau + X$. The mass distribution in the BDT$\tau_j > 0.7$ signal region is significantly broader as expected for $\tilde{\tau} \rightarrow \ell + \tau + X$. The signal and background shown in these figures are based on the fit using the 0 b-tag background template.

6.1. Check with Matrix Method

From Figures 3 and 4 one can see that a BDT$\tau_j > 0.7$ requirement separates well a region dominated by $\tilde{\tau} \rightarrow \ell + \tau$-jets from a region dominated by $\tilde{\tau} \rightarrow \ell + \tau + X$. One can extract the signal from the same OS-SS $\geq 1$ b-tag sample used by the fit method via a matrix method. All $\tau$ candidates are labeled “loose”, and $\tau$ candidates with BDT$\tau_j > 0.7$ are labeled “tight”. The probability that the loose $\tau$ candidates are also tight $\tau$ candidates, for
both \( \tau \) leptons and fake \( \tau \) leptons, is defined as

\[
\epsilon_{\text{real}} = \frac{N_{\text{real}}^{\text{tight}}}{N_{\text{data}}^{\text{tight}}} \quad \epsilon_{\text{fake}} = \frac{N_{\text{fake}}^{\text{tight}}}{N_{\text{data}}^{\text{tight}}}
\]

where the “real” subscript denotes \( \tau \) lepton, the “fake” subscript denotes fake \( \tau \) and \( N \) is the number of \( \tau \) candidates. The number of “tight” \( \tau \) leptons is then given by

\[
N_{\text{real}}^{\text{tight}} = N_{\text{tight}}^{\text{data}} \times \frac{\epsilon_{\text{fake}}}{\epsilon_{\text{real}} - \epsilon_{\text{fake}}} (N_{\text{data}}^{\text{loose}} - N_{\text{real}}^{\text{tight}}).
\]

The value of \( \epsilon_{\text{fake}} \) is measured utilizing the OS-SS BDT distribution from the background control samples; \( \epsilon_{\text{real}} \) is derived from MC and was tested using \( Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^- \) events. This method uses the binning approach described in Section 5 to estimate the background. Values of \( \epsilon_{\text{fake}} \) and \( \epsilon_{\text{real}} \) are measured separately for three EM-fraction bins. The EM-fraction, the ratio of the energy measured in the EM calorimeter to the total \( \tau \) candidate energy measured in the calorimeter, is an effective variable for splitting the data into regions where the shapes of MC OS-SS BDT distributions for the \( W+1 \) jet background template and the \( \geq 1 \) b-tag background are similar. Table 3 shows the number of signal events obtained with the matrix method using the background derived from the 0 b-tag data sample and from the \( W+1 \) jet data sample. The numbers in each pair are in good agreement and consistent with the numbers obtained by fitting the OS-SS BDT distributions.

6.2. Systematic Uncertainty

Several experimental and theoretical sources of systematic uncertainty are considered. Lepton trigger, reconstruction and selection efficiencies are assessed by comparing the \( Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^- \) events selected with the same object criteria as used for the \( \mu \) analyses in data and MC.

Scale factors are applied to MC samples when calculating acceptances to account for any differences between predicted and observed efficiencies. The scale factors are evaluated by comparing the observed efficiencies with those determined with simulated Z boson events. Systematic uncertainties on these scale factors are evaluated by varying the selection of events used in the efficiency measurements and by checking the stability of the measurements over the course of data taking.

The modeling of the lepton momentum scale and resolution is studied using reconstructed invariant mass distributions of \( Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^- \) candidate events and used to adjust the simulation accordingly [23, 24].

The jet energy scale (JES) and its uncertainty are derived by combining information from test-beam data, LHC collision data and simulation [25]. For jets within the acceptance, the JES uncertainty varies in the range 4–8% as a function of jet \( p_T \) and \( \eta \). Comparing MC and data the estimated systematic uncertainties on these scale factors are evaluated by varying the selection of events used in the efficiency measurements and by checking the stability of the measurements over the course of data taking.

The uncertainty in the kinematic distributions of the \( \mu \) signal events gives rise to systematic uncertainties in the signal acceptance, with contributions from the choice of generator, the modeling of initial- and final-state radiation (ISR/FSR)
and the choice of the PDF set. The generator uncertainty is evaluated by comparing the MC@NLO predictions with those of POWHEG [23, 28, 29] interfaced to either HERWIG or PYTHIA. The uncertainty due to ISR/FSR is evaluated using the AceAMC generator [30] interfaced to the PYTHIA shower model, and by varying the parameters controlling ISR and FSR in a range consistent with experimental data [21]. Finally, the PDF uncertainty is evaluated using a range of current PDF sets [31, 32, 33]. The dominant uncertainty in this category is the PDF uncertainty, which is evaluated using a range of current PDF sets [34].

The systematic uncertainties are estimated as the quadratic sum of all uncertainties given in Table 4, which includes the uncertainty from the subtraction.

The results for the $\mu + \tau$ and $e + \tau$ channels are combined taking into account the correlated uncertainties using the BLUE (Best Linear Unbiased Estimator) technique [36]. Combining them does not improve the systematic uncertainty as the systematic uncertainties are almost 100% correlated.

The results for each lepton type are:

$\mu + \tau$: $\sigma_\mu = 186 \pm 15$ (stat.) $\pm 20$ (syst.) $\pm 7$ (lumi.) pb,

$e + \tau$: $\sigma_e = 187 \pm 18$ (stat.) $\pm 20$ (syst.) $\pm 7$ (lumi.) pb.

Combining both channels one obtains:

$\sigma = 186 \pm 13$ (stat.) $\pm 20$ (syst.) $\pm 7$ (lumi.) pb.

To check the fit measurements, the cross sections can be calculated using the matrix method and the results obtained with the $W + 1$ jet background to minimize the correlation with the fit results. The combination of the matrix method and the fit results with the BLUE method show they are compatible at the 45% and 10% confidence level for $\mu + \tau$ and $e + \tau$, respectively.

8. Conclusions

The cross section for $t\bar{t}$ production in $pp$ collisions at 7 TeV has been measured in the $\mu + \tau$ and $e + \tau$ channels in which the $\tau$ decays hadronically. The number of $\tau$ leptons in these channels has been extracted using multivariate discriminators to separate $\tau$ leptons from electrons and jets misidentified as hadronically decaying $\tau$ leptons. These numbers were obtained by fitting the discriminator outputs and checked with a matrix method. Combining the measurements from $\mu + \tau$ and $e + \tau$ events, the cross section is measured to be

$\sigma = 186 \pm 13$ (stat.) $\pm 20$ (syst.) $\pm 7$ (lumi.) pb.

Table 4: Relative systematic uncertainties, in %, for the cross-section measurement. The first column gives the source of systematic uncertainty, ID/Trigger stands for the combined uncertainty of lepton identification and lepton trigger. The $\tau$ ID uncertainty includes electrons misidentified as $\tau$ leptons. The second and third columns give the channel.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>$\mu + \tau$</th>
<th>$e + \tau$</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\mu$ (ID/Trigger)</td>
<td>$-1.1/+1.5$</td>
<td>$-2.9$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e$ (ID/Trigger)</td>
<td>$-0.7/2.0$</td>
<td>$-2.9$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JES</td>
<td>$-2.0/2.0$/2.2</td>
<td>$-1.9/2.8$</td>
</tr>
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<td>JER</td>
<td>$\pm1.0$</td>
<td>$\pm1.0$</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISR/FSR</td>
<td>$\pm4.8$/3.5</td>
<td>$\pm4.8$/3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generator</td>
<td>$\pm0.7$</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDF</td>
<td>$\pm2.0$</td>
<td>$\pm2.0$</td>
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<tr>
<td>$b$-tag</td>
<td>$-7.5/8.9$</td>
<td>$-7.5/8.9$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\tau_1$ ID</td>
<td>$-3.0/3.0$</td>
<td>$-3.0/3.0$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\tau_3$ ID</td>
<td>$-3.1/3.4$</td>
<td>$-2.9/3.2$</td>
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Table 5: Measured cross section from the $\tau_1$ and $\tau_3$ samples, as well as the combination ($\tau_1 + \tau_3$) for each channel separately. The uncertainty in the integrated luminosity (3.7%) is not included.

<table>
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<th>Source</th>
<th>$\mu + \tau$</th>
<th>$e + \tau$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\tau_1$</td>
<td>$189 \pm 6$ (stat.) $\pm 20$ (syst.) $\pm 7$ (lumi.) pb</td>
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<tr>
<td>$\tau_3$</td>
<td>$180 \pm 40$ (stat.) $\pm 21$ (syst.) $\pm 7$ (lumi.) pb</td>
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<td>$\tau_1 + \tau_3$</td>
<td>$186 \pm 15$ (stat.) $\pm 20$ (syst.) $\pm 7$ (lumi.) pb</td>
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<td>$e + \tau$</td>
<td>$190 \pm 20$ (stat.) $\pm 20$ (syst.) $\pm 7$ (lumi.) pb</td>
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<tr>
<td>$\tau_1$</td>
<td>$170 \pm 50$ (stat.) $\pm 21$ (syst.) $\pm 7$ (lumi.) pb</td>
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<tr>
<td>$\tau_1 + \tau_3$</td>
<td>$187 \pm 18$ (stat.) $\pm 20$ (syst.) $\pm 7$ (lumi.) pb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
in good agreement with the cross section measured by ATLAS in other channels, with the cross-section measurement by the CMS Collaboration and with the SM prediction, $164^{+11}_{-16}$ pb.

9. Acknowledgements

We thank CERN for the very successful operation of the LHC, as well as the support staff from our institutions without whom ATLAS could not be operated efficiently.

We acknowledge the support of ANPCyT, Argentina; YerPhI, Armenia; ARC, Australia; BMWF, Austria; ANAS, Azerbaijan; STFC, Belarus; CNPq and FAPESP, Brazil; NSERC, NRC and CFI, Canada; CERN; CONICYT, Chile; CAS, MOST and NSFC, China; COLCIENCIAS, Colombia; MSMT CR, MPO CR and VSC CR, Czech Republic; DNRF, DNSRC and Lundbeck Foundation, Denmark; EPLANET and ERC, European Union; IN2P3-CNRS, CEA-DSM/IRFU, France; GNAS, Georgia; BMWF, DFG, HGF, MPG and AvH Foundation, Germany; GSRT, Greece; ISF, MINERVA, GIF, DIP and Benoziyo Center, Israel; INFN, Italy; MEXT and JSPS, Japan; CNRST, Morocco; FOM and NWO, Netherlands; RCN, Norway; MNISW, Poland; GRICES and FCT, Portugal; MERSYS (MECTS), Romania; MES of Russia and ROSATOM, Russian Federation; JINR; MSTD, Serbia; MSSR, Slovakia; ARRS and MVZT, Slovenia; DST/NRF, South Africa; MICINN, Spain; SRC and Wallenberg Foundation, Sweden; SER, SNSF and Cantons of Bern and Geneva, Switzerland; NSC, Taiwan; TAEK, Turkey; STFC, the Royal Society and Leverhulme Trust, United Kingdom; DOE and NSF, United States of America.

The crucial computing support from all WLCG partners is acknowledged gratefully, in particular from CERN and the ATLAS Tier-1 facilities at TRIUMF (Canada), NDGF (Denmark, Norway, Sweden), CC-IN2P3 (France), KIT/GridKA (Germany), INFN-CNAF (Italy), NL-T1 (Netherlands), PIC (Spain), ASGC (Taiwan), RAL (UK) and BNL (USA) and in the Tier-2 facilities worldwide.

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<td>Department of Physics, Jožef Stefan Institute and University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia</td>
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<td>School of Physics and Astronomy, Queen Mary University of London, London</td>
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Department of Physics, Royal Holloway University of London, Surrey, United Kingdom
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London, United Kingdom
Laboratoire de Physique Nucléaire et de Hautes Energies, UPMC and Université Paris-Diderot and CNRS/IN2P3, Paris, France
Fysiska institutionen, Lunds universitet, Lund, Sweden
Departamento de Física Teorica C-15, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain
Institut für Physik, Universität Mainz, Mainz, Germany
School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom
CPPM, Aix-Marseille Université and CNRS/IN2P3, Marseille, France
Department of Physics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA, United States of America
Department of Physics, McGill University, Montreal QC, Canada
School of Physics, University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Department of Physics, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI, United States of America
Department of Physics and Astronomy, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI, United States of America
(\textsuperscript{a})INFN Sezione di Milano; (\textsuperscript{b})Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Milano, Milano, Italy
B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Minsk, Republic of Belarus
National Scientific and Educational Centre for Particle and High Energy Physics, Minsk, Republic of Belarus
Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA, United States of America
Group of Particle Physics, University of Montreal, Montreal QC, Canada
P.N. Lebedev Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia
Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics (ITEP), Moscow, Russia
Moscow Engineering and Physics Institute (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia
Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
Fakultät für Physik, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, München, Germany
Max-Planck-Institut für Physik (Werner-Heisenberg-Institut), München, Germany
Nagasaki Institute of Applied Science, Nagasaki, Japan
Graduate School of Science, Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan
(\textsuperscript{a})INFN Sezione di Napoli; (\textsuperscript{b})Dipartimento di Scienze Fisiche, Università di Napoli, Napoli, Italy
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM, United States of America
Institute for Mathematics, Astrophysics and Particle Physics, Radboud University Nijmegen/Nikhef, Nijmegen, Netherlands
Nikhef National Institute for Subatomic Physics and University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Department of Physics, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb IL, United States of America
Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, SB RAS, Novosibirsk, Russia
Department of Physics, New York University, New York NY, United States of America
Ohio State University, Columbus OH, United States of America
Faculty of Science, Okayama University, Okayama, Japan
Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Oklahoma, Norman OK, United States of America
Department of Physics, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater OK, United States of America
Palacky University, RCP TM, Olomouc, Czech Republic
Center for High Energy Physics, University of Oregon, Eugene OR, United States of America
LAL, Univ. Paris-Sud and CNRS/IN2P3, Orsay, France
Graduate School of Science, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan
Department of Physics, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom
(\textsuperscript{a})INFN Sezione di Pavia; (\textsuperscript{b})Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Pavia, Pavia, Italy
Department of Physics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA, United States of America
Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina, Russia
(\textsuperscript{a})INFN Sezione di Pisa; (\textsuperscript{b})Dipartimento di Fisica E. Fermi, Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA, United States of America
(\textsuperscript{a})Laboratorio de Instrumentacao e Fisica Experimental de Particulas - LIP, Lisboa, Portugal; (\textsuperscript{b})Departamento de Fisica Teorica y del Cosmos and CAIFPE, Universidad de Granada, Granada, Spain
Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Praha, Czech Republic
Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University in Prague, Praha, Czech Republic
Czech Technical University in Prague, Praha, Czech Republic
State Research Center Institute for High Energy Physics, Protvino, Russia
Particle Physics Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
Physics Department, University of Regina, Regina SK, Canada
Ritsumeikan University, Kusatsu, Shiga, Japan
132 (a) INFN Sezione di Roma I; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università La Sapienza, Roma, Italy
133 (a) INFN Sezione di Roma Tor Vergata; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy
134 (a) INFN Sezione di Roma Tre; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università Roma Tre, Roma, Italy
135 (a) Faculté des Sciences Ain Chock, Réseau Universitaire de Physique des Hautes Energies - Université Hassan II, Casablanca;
(b) Centre National de l’Energie des Sciences Techniques Nucléaires, Rabat; (c) Faculté des Sciences Semlalia, Université Cadi Ayyad, LPHEA-Marrakech; (d) Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohamed Premier and LPTPM, Oujda; (e) Faculty of sciences, Mohammed V-Agdal University, Rabat, Morocco
136 DSM/IRFU (Institut de Recherches sur les Lois Fondamentales de l’Univers), CEA Saclay (Commissariat a l’Energie Atomique), Gif-sur-Yvette, France
137 Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz CA, United States of America
138 Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle WA, United States of America
139 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom
140 Department of Physics, Shinshu University, Nagano, Japan
141 Fachbereich Physik, Universität Siegen, Siegen, Germany
142 Department of Physics, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC, Canada
143 SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Stanford CA, United States of America
144 (a) Faculty of Mathematics, Physics & Informatics, Comenius University, Bratislava; (b) Department of Subnuclear Physics, Institute of Experimental Physics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Kosice, Slovak Republic
145 (a) Department of Physics, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg; (b) School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
146 (a) Department of Physics, Stockholm University; (b) The Oskar Klein Centre, Stockholm, Sweden
147 Physics Department, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden
148 Departments of Physics & Astronomy and Chemistry, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook NY, United States of America
149 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom
150 School of Physics, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
151 Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
152 Department of Physics, Technion: Israel Inst. of Technology, Haifa, Israel
153 Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Physics and Astronomy, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel
154 Department of Physics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece
155 International Center for Elementary Particle Physics and Department of Physics, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
156 Graduate School of Science and Technology, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Tokyo, Japan
157 Department of Physics, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan
158 Department of Physics, University of Toronto, Toronto ON, Canada
159 (a) TRIUMF, Vancouver BC; (b) Department of Physics and Astronomy, York University, Toronto ON, Canada
160 Institute of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Tsukuba, 1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8571, Japan
161 Science and Technology Center, Tufts University, Medford MA, United States of America
162 Centro de Investigaciones, Universidad Antonio Narino, Bogota, Colombia
163 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of California Irvine, Irvine CA, United States of America
164 (a) INFN Gruppo Collegato di Udine; (b) ICTP, Trieste; (c) Dipartimento di Chimica, Fisica e Ambiente, Università di Udine, Udine, Italy
165 Department of Physics, University of Illinois, Urbana IL, United States of America
166 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden
167 Instituto de Física Corpuscular (IFIC) and Departamento de Física Atómica, Molecular y Nuclear and Departamento de Ingeniería Electrónica and Instituto de Microelectrónica de Barcelona (IMB-CNM), University of Valencia and CSIC, Valencia, Spain
168 Department of Physics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC, Canada
169 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Victoria, Victoria BC, Canada
170 Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom
171 Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
172 Department of Particle Physics, The Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel
173 Department of Physics, University of Wisconsin, Madison WI, United States of America
174 Fakultät für Physik und Astronomie, Julius-Maximilians-Universität, Würzburg, Germany
175 Fachbereich C Physik, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany
176 Department of Physics, Yale University, New Haven CT, United States of America
177 Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia
178 Domaine scientifique de la Doua, Centre de Calcul CNRS/IN2P3, Villeurbanne Cedex, France

a Also at Laboratorio de Instrumentacao e Fisica Experimental de Particulas - LIP, Lisboa, Portugal
Also at Faculdade de Ciencias and CFNUL, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
Also at Particle Physics Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
Also at TRIUMF, Vancouver BC, Canada
Also at Department of Physics, California State University, Fresno CA, United States of America
Also at Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk, Russia
Also at Fermilab, Batavia IL, United States of America
Also at Department of Physics, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal
Also at Università di Napoli Parthenope, Napoli, Italy
Also at Institute of Particle Physics (IPP), Canada
Also at Department of Physics, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey
Also at Louisiana Tech University, Ruston LA, United States of America
Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London, United Kingdom
Also at Group of Particle Physics, University of Montreal, Montreal QC, Canada
Also at Department of Physics, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
Also at Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan
Also at Institut für Experimentalphysik, Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany
Also at Manhattan College, New York NY, United States of America
Also at School of Physics, Shandong University, Shandong, China
Also at CPPM, Aix-Marseille Université and CNRS/IN2P3, Marseille, France
Also at School of Physics and Engineering, Sun Yat-sen University, Guanzhou, China
Also at Academia Sinica Grid Computing, Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
Also at Dipartimento di Fisica, Università La Sapienza, Roma, Italy
Also at DSM/IRFU (Institut de Recherches sur les Lois Fondamentales de l’Univers), CEA Saclay (Commissariat a l’Energie Atomique), Gif-sur-Yvette, France
Also at Section de Physique, Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland
Also at Departamento de Física, Universidade de Minho, Braga, Portugal
Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC, United States of America
Also at Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary
Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena CA, United States of America
Also at Institute of Physics, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland
Also at LAL, Univ. Paris-Sud and CNRS/IN2P3, Orsay, France
Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom
Also at Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom
Also at Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
Also at Department of Physics, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI, United States of America
* Deceased