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Tevatron combination of single-top-quark cross sections and determination of the magnitude of the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa matrix element V_{tb}

T. Aaltonen [†,21] V.M. Abazov [‡,13] B. Abbott [‡,116] B.S. Acharya [‡,80] M. Adams [‡,98] T. Adams [‡,97] J.P. Agnew [‡,94] G.D. Alexeev [‡,13] G. Alkhazov [‡,88] A. Alton [‡jj,31] S. Amerio [†zz,39] D. Amidei [†,31] A. Anastassov [†w,15] A. Annovi [†,17] J. Antos [†,12] G. Apollinari [†,15] J.A. Appel [†,15] T. Arisawa [†,52] A. Artikov [†,13] J. Asaadi [†,47] W. Ashmanskas [†,15] A. Askew [‡,97] S. Atkins [‡,106] B. Auerbach [†,2] K. Augsten [‡,62] A. Aurisano [†,47] C. Avila [‡,60] F. Azfar [†,38] F. Badaud [‡,65] W. Badgett [†,15] T. Bae [†,25] L. Bagby [‡,15] B. Baldin [‡,15] D.V. Bandurin [‡,122] S. Banerjee [‡,80] A. Barbaro-Galtieri [†,26] E. Barberis [‡,107] P. Baringer [‡,105] V.E. Barnes [†,43] B.A. Barnett [†,23] P. Barria [†bbb,41] J.F. Bartlett [‡,15] P. Bartos [†,12] U. Bassler [‡,70] M. Bauce [†zz,39] V. Bazterra [‡,98] A. Bean [‡,105] F. Bedeschi [†,41] M. Begalli [‡,57] S. Behari [†,15] L. Bellantoni [‡,15] G. Bellettini [†aaa,41] J. Bellinger [†,54] D. Benjamin [†,14] A. Beretvas [†,15] S.B. Beri [‡,78] G. Bernardi [‡,69] R. Bernhard [‡,74] I. Bertram [‡,92] M. Besançon [‡,70] R. Beuselinck [‡,93] P.C. Bhat [‡,15] S. Bhatia [‡,108] V. Bhatnagar [‡,78] A. Bhatti [†,45] K.R. Bland [†,5] G. Blazey [‡,99] S. Blessing [‡,97] K. Bloom [‡,109] B. Blumenfeld [†,23] A. Bocci [†,14] A. Bodek [†,44] A. Boehnlein [‡,15] D. Boline [‡,113] E.E. Boos [‡,86] G. Borissov [‡,92] D. Bortoletto [†,43] M. Borysova [‡vv,91] J. Boudreau [†,42] A. Boveia [†,11] A. Brandt [‡,119] O. Brandt [‡,75] L. Brigliadori [†yy,6] R. Brock [‡,32] C. Bromberg [†,32] A. Bross [‡,15] D. Brown [‡,69] E. Brucken [†,21] X.B. Bu [‡,15] J. Budagov [†,13] H.S. Budd [†,44] M. Buehler [‡,15] V. Buescher [‡,76] V. Bunichev [‡,86] S. Burdin [‡kk,92] K. Burkett [†,15] G. Busetto [†zz,39] P. Bussey [†,19] C.P. Buszello [‡,90] P. Butti [†aaa,41] A. Buzatu [†,19] A. Calamba [†,10] E. Camacho-Pérez [‡,83] S. Camarda [†,4] M. Campanelli [†,28] F. Canelli [†dd,11] B. Carls [†,22] D. Carlsmith [†,54] R. Carosi [†,41] S. Carrillo [†l,16] B. Casal [†j,9] M. Casarsa [†,48] B.C.K. Casey [‡,15] H. Castilla-Valdez [‡,83] A. Castro [†yy,6] P. Catastini [†,20] S. Caughron [‡,32] D. Cauz [†ggghhh,48] V. Cavaliere [†,22] A. Cerri [†e,26] L. Cerrito [†r,28] S. Chakrabarti [‡,113] K.M. Chan [‡,103] A. Chandra [‡,121] E. Chapon [‡,70] G. Chen [‡,105] Y.C. Chen [†,1] M. Chertok [†,7] G. Chiarelli [†,41] G. Chlachidze [†,15] K. Cho [†,25] S.W. Cho [‡,82] S. Choi [‡,82] D. Chokheli [†,13] B. Choudhary [‡,79] S. Cihangir [‡,15] D. Claes [‡,109] A. Clark [†,18] C. Clarke [†,53] J. Clutter [‡,105] M.E. Convery [†,15] J. Conway [†,7] M. Cooke [‡uu,15] W.E. Cooper [‡,15] M. Corbo [†z,15] M. Corcoran [‡,121] M. Cordelli [†,17] F. Couderc [‡,70] M.-C. Cousinou [‡,67] C.A. Cox [†,7] D.J. Cox [†,7] M. Cremonesi [†,41] D. Cruz [†,47] J. Cuevas [†y,9] R. Culbertson [†,15] D. Cutts [‡,118] A. Das [‡,120] N. d'Ascenzo [†v,15] M. Datta [†gg,15] G. Davies [‡,93] P. de Barbaro [†,44] S.J. de Jong [‡,84,85] E. De La Cruz-Burelo [‡mm,83] F. Déliot [‡,70] R. Demina [‡,44] L. Demortier [†,45] M. Deninno [†,6] D. Denisov [‡,15] S.P. Denisov [‡,87] M. D'Errico [†zz,39] S. Desai [‡,15] C. Deterre [‡ll,94] K. DeVaughan [‡,109] F. Devoto [†,21] A. Di Canto [†aaa,41] B. Di Ruzza [†p,15] H.T. Diehl [‡,15] M. Diesburg [‡,15] P.F. Ding [‡,94] J.R. Dittmann [†,5] A. Dominguez [‡,109] S. Donati [†aaa,41] M. D'Onofrio [†,27] M. Dorigo [†iii,48] A. Driutti [†ggghhh,48] A. Dubey [‡,79] L.V. Dudko [‡,86] A. Duperrin [‡,67] S. Dutt [‡,78] M. Eads [‡,99] K. Ebina [†,52] R. Edgar [†,31] D. Edmunds [‡,32] A. Elagin [†,47] J. Ellison [‡,96] V.D. Elvira [‡,15] Y. Enari [‡,69] R. Erbacher [†,7] S. Errede [†,22] B. Esham [†,22] H. Evans [‡,101] A. Evdokimov [‡,98] V.N. Evdokimov [‡,87] S. Farrington [†,38] A. Fauré [‡,70] L. Feng [‡,99] T. Ferbel [‡,44] J.P. Fernández Ramos [†,29] F. Fiedler [‡,76] R. Field [†,16] F. Filthaut [‡,84,85] W. Fisher [‡,32] H.E. Fisk [‡,15] G. Flanagan [†t,15] R. Forrest [†,7] M. Fortner [‡,99] H. Fox [‡,92] M. Franklin [†,20] J.C. Freeman [†,15] H. Frisch [†,11] S. Fuess [‡,15] Y. Funakoshi [†,52] C. Galloni [†aaa,41] P.H. Garbincius [‡,15] A. Garcia-Bellido [‡,44] J.A. García-González [‡,83] A.F. Garfinkel [†,43] P. Garosi [†bbb,41] V. Gavrilov [‡,33] W. Geng [‡,67,32] C.E. Gerber [‡,98] H. Gerberich [†,22] E. Gerchtein [†,15] Y. Gershtein [‡,110] S. Giagu [†,46] V. Giakoumopoulou [†,3] K. Gibson [†,42] C.M. Ginsburg [†,15] G. Ginther [‡,15,44] N. Giokaris [†,3] P. Giromini [†,17] V. Glagolev [†,13] D. Glenzinski [†,15] O. Gogota [‡,91] M. Gold [†,34] D. Goldin [†,47] A. Golossanov [†,15] G. Golovanov [‡,13] G. Gomez [†,9] G. Gomez-Ceballos [†,30] M. Goncharov [†,30] O. González López [†,29] I. Gorelov [†,34] A.T. Goshaw [†,14] K. Goulianos [†,45] E. Gramellini [†,6] P.D. Grannis [‡,113] S. Greder [‡,71] H. Greenlee [‡,15] G. Grenier [‡,72] Ph. Gris [‡,65] J.-F. Grivaz [‡,68] A. Grohsjean [‡ll,70] C. Grosso-Pilcher [†,11] R.C. Group [†,51,15] S. Grünendahl [‡,15] M.W. Grünewald [‡,81] T. Guillemin [‡,68] J. Guimaraes da Costa [†,20] G. Gutierrez [‡,15] P. Gutierrez [‡,116] S.R. Hahn [†,15] J. Haley [‡,117] J.Y. Han [†,44] L. Han [‡,59] F. Happacher [†,17] K. Hara [†,49] K. Harder [‡,94] M. Hare [†,50] A. Harel [‡,44] R.F. Harr [†,53] T. Harrington-Taber [†m,15] K. Hatakeyama [†,5] J.M. Hauptman [‡,104] C. Hays [†,38] J. Hays [‡,93] T. Head [‡,94] T. Hebbeker [‡,73] D. Hedin [‡,99] H. Hegab [‡,117] J. Heinrich [†,40] A.P. Heinson [‡,96] U. Heintz [‡,118] C. Hensel [‡,56] I. Heredia-De La Cruz [‡nn,83] M. Herndon [†,54] K. Herner [‡,15] G. Hesketh [‡pp,94] M.D. Hildreth [‡,103] R. Hirosky [‡,122] T. Hoang [‡,97] J.D. Hobbs [‡,113] A. Hocker [†,15] B. Hoeneisen [‡,64] J. Hogan [‡,121] M. Hohlfeld [‡,76] J.L. Holzbauer [‡,108] Z. Hong [†,47] W. Hopkins [†f,15] S. Hou [†,1] I. Howley [‡,119] Z. Hubacek [‡,62,70] R.E. Hughes [†,35] U. Husemann [†,55] M. Hussein [†bb,32] J. Huston [†,32] V. Hynek [‡,62] I. Iashvili [‡,112] Y. Ilchenko [‡,120]

R. Illingworth [‡,15] G. Introzzi [†dddeee,41] M. Iori [†fff,46] A.S. Ito [‡,15] A. Ivanov [†o,7] S. Jabeen [‡ww,15] M. Jaffré [‡,68] E. James [†,15] D. Jang [†,10] A. Jayasinghe [‡,116] B. Jayatilaka [†,15] E.J. Jeon [†,25] M.S. Jeong [‡,82] R. Jesik [‡,93] P. Jiang [‡,59] S. Jindariani [†,15] K. Johns [‡,95] E. Johnson [‡,32] M. Johnson [‡,15] A. Jonckheere [‡,15] M. Jones [†,43] P. Jonsson [‡,93] K.K. Joo [†,25] J. Joshi [‡,96] S.Y. Jun [†,10] A.W. Jung [‡,15] T.R. Junk [†,15] A. Juste [‡,89] E. Kajfasz [‡,67] M. Kambeitz [†,24] T. Kamon [†,25,47] P.E. Karchin [†,53] D. Karmanov [‡,86] A. Kasmi [†,5] Y. Kato [†n,37] I. Katsanos [‡,109] M. Kaur [‡,78] R. Kehoe [‡,120] S. Kermiche [‡,67] W. Ketchum [†hh,11] J. Keung [†,40] N. Khalatyan [‡,15] A. Khanov [‡,117] A. Kharchilava [‡,112] Y.N. Kharzheev [‡,13] B. Kilminster [†dd,15] D.H. Kim [†,25] H.S. Kim [†,25] J.E. Kim [†,25] M.J. Kim [†,17] S.H. Kim [†,49] S.B. Kim [†,25] Y.J. Kim [†,25] Y.K. Kim [†,11] N. Kimura [†,52] M. Kirby [†,15] I. Kiselevich [‡,33] K. Knoepfel [†,15] J.M. Kohli [‡,78] K. Kondo [†,52,*] D.J. Kong [†,25] J. Konigsberg [†,16] A.V. Kotwal [†,14] A.V. Kozelov [‡,87] J. Kraus [‡,108] M. Kreps [†,24] J. Kroll [†,40] M. Kruse [†,14] T. Kuhr [†,24] A. Kumar [‡,112] A. Kupco [‡,63] M. Kurata [†,49] T. Kurča [‡,72] V.A. Kuzmin [‡,86] A.T. Laasanen [†,43] S. Lammel [†,15] S. Lammers [‡,101] M. Lancaster [†,28] K. Lannon [†x,35] G. Latino [†bbb,41] P. Lebrun [‡,72] H.S. Lee [‡,82] H.S. Lee [†,25] J.S. Lee [†,25] S.W. Lee [‡,104] W.M. Lee [‡,15] X. Lei [‡,95] J. Lellouch [‡,69] S. Leo [†,22] S. Leone [†,41] J.D. Lewis [†,15] D. Li [‡,69] H. Li [‡,122] L. Li [‡,96] Q.Z. Li [‡,15] J.K. Lim [‡,82] A. Limosani [†s,14] D. Lincoln [‡,15] J. Linnemann [‡,32] V.V. Lipaev [‡,87] E. Lipeles [†,40] R. Lipton [‡,15] A. Lister [†a,18] H. Liu [†,51] H. Liu [‡,120] Q. Liu [†,43] T. Liu [†,15] Y. Liu [‡,59] A. Lobodenko [‡,88] S. Lockwitz [†,55] A. Loginov [†,55] M. Lokajicek [‡,63] R. Lopes de Sa [‡,15] D. Lucchesi [†zz,39] A. Lucà [†,17] J. Lueck [†,24] P. Lujan [†,26] P. Lukens [†,15] R. Luna-Garcia [‡qq,83] G. Lungu [†,45] A.L. Lyon [‡,15] J. Lys [†,26] R. Lysak [†d,12] A.K.A. Maciel [‡,56] R. Madar [‡,74] R. Madrak [†,15] P. Maestro [†bbb,41] R. Magaña-Villalba [‡,83] S. Malik [†,45] S. Malik [‡,109] V.L. Malyshev [‡,13] G. Manca [†b,27] A. Manousakis-Katsikakis [†,3] J. Mansour [‡,75] L. Marchese [†ii,6] F. Margaroli [†,46] P. Marino [†ccc,41] J. Martínez-Ortega [‡,83] K. Matera [†,22] M.E. Mattson [†,53] A. Mazzacane [†,15] P. Mazzanti [†,6] R. McCarthy [‡,113] C.L. McGivern [‡,94] R. McNulty [†i,27] A. Mehta [†,27] P. Mehtala [†,21] M.M. Meijer [‡,84,85] A. Melnitchouk [‡,15] D. Menezes [‡,99] P.G. Mercadante [‡,58] M. Merkin [‡,86] C. Mesropian [†,45] A. Meyer [‡,73] J. Meyer [‡ss,75] T. Miao [†,15] F. Miconi [‡,71] D. Mietlicki [†,31] A. Mitra [†,1] H. Miyake [†,49] S. Moed [†,15] N. Moggi [†,6] N.K. Mondal [‡,80] C.S. Moon [†z,15] R. Moore [†eeff,15] M.J. Morello [†ccc,41] A. Mukherjee [†,15] M. Mulhearn [‡,122] Th. Muller [†,24] P. Murat [†,15] M. Mussini [†yy,6] J. Nachtman [†m,15] Y. Nagai [†,49] J. Naganoma [†,52] E. Nagy [‡,67] I. Nakano [†,36] A. Napier [†,50] M. Narain [‡,118] R. Nayyar [‡,95] H.A. Neal [‡,31] J.P. Negret [‡,60] J. Nett [†,47] C. Neu [†,51] P. Neustroev [‡,88] H.T. Nguyen [‡,122] T. Nigmanov [†,42] L. Nodulman [†,2] S.Y. Noh [†,25] O. Norniella [†,22] T. Nunnemann [‡,77] L. Oakes [†,38] S.H. Oh [†,14] Y.D. Oh [†,25] I. Oksuzian [†,51] T. Okusawa [†,37] R. Orava [†,21] J. Orduna [‡,121] L. Ortolan [†,4] N. Osman [‡,67] J. Osta [‡,103] C. Pagliarone [†,48] A. Pal [‡,119] E. Palencia [†e,9] P. Palni [†,34] V. Papadimitriou [†,15] N. Parashar [‡,102] V. Parihar [‡,118] S.K. Park [‡,82] W. Parker [†,54] R. Partridge [‡oo,118] N. Parua [‡,101] A. Patwa [‡tt,114] G. Pauletta [†ggghhh,48] M. Paulini [†,10] C. Paus [†,30] B. Penning [‡,15] M. Perfilov [‡,86] Y. Peters [‡,94] K. Petridis [‡,94] G. Petrillo [‡,44] P. Pétroff [‡,68] T.J. Phillips [†,14] G. Piacentino [†q,15] E. Pianori [†,40] J. Pilot [†,7] K. Pitts [†,22] C. Plager [†,8] M.-A. Pleier [‡,114] V.M. Podstavkov [‡,15] L. Pondrom [†,54] A.V. Popov [‡,87] S. Poprocki [†f,15] K. Potamianos [†,26] A. Pranko [†,26] M. Prewitt [‡,121] D. Price [‡,94] N. Prokopenko [‡,87] F. Prokoshin [†aa,13] F. Ptohos [†g,17] G. Punzi [†aaa,41] J. Qian [‡,31] A. Quadt [‡,75] B. Quinn [‡,108] P.N. Ratoff [‡,92] I. Razumov [‡,87] I. Redondo Fernández [†,29] P. Renton [†,38] M. Rescigno [†,46] F. Rimondi [†,6,*] I. Ripp-Baudot [‡,71] L. Ristori [†,41,15] F. Rizatdinova [‡,117] A. Robson [†,19] T. Rodriguez [†,40] S. Rolli [†h,50] M. Rominsky [‡,15] M. Ronzani [†aaa,41] R. Roser [†,15] J.L. Rosner [†,11] A. Ross [‡,92] C. Royon [‡,70] P. Rubinov [‡,15] R. Ruchti [‡,103] F. Ruffini [†bbb,41] A. Ruiz [†,9] J. Russ [†,10] V. Rusu [†,15] G. Sajot [‡,66] W.K. Sakumoto [†,44] Y. Sakurai [†,52] A. Sánchez-Hernández [‡,83] M.P. Sanders [‡,77] L. Santi [†ggghhh,48] A.S. Santos [‡rr,56] K. Sato [†,49] G. Savage [‡,15] V. Saveliev [†v,15] M. Savitskyi [‡,91] A. Savoy-Navarro [†z,15] L. Sawyer [‡,106] T. Scanlon [‡,93] R.D. Schamberger [‡,113] Y. Scheglov [‡,88] H. Schellman [‡,100] P. Schlabach [†,15] E.E. Schmidt [†,15] C. Schwanenberger [‡,94] T. Schwarz [†,31] R. Schwienhorst [‡,32] L. Scodellaro [†,9] F. Scuri [†,41] S. Seidel [†,34] Y. Seiya [†,37] J. Sekaric [‡,105] A. Semenov [†,13] H. Severini [‡,116] F. Sforza [†aaa,41] E. Shabalina [‡,75] S.Z. Shalhout [†,7] V. Shary [‡,70] S. Shaw [‡,94] A.A. Shchukin [‡,87] T. Shears [†,27] P.F. Shepard [†,42] M. Shimojima [†u,49] M. Shochet [†,11] I. Shreyber-Tecker [†,33] V. Simak [‡,62] A. Simonenko [†,13] P. Skubic [‡,116] P. Slattery [‡,44] K. Sliwa [†,50] D. Smirnov [‡,103] J.R. Smith [†,7] F.D. Snider [†,15] G.R. Snow [‡,109] J. Snow [‡,115] S. Snyder [‡,114] S. Söldner-Rembold [‡,94] H. Song [†,42] L. Sonnenschein [‡,73] V. Sorin [†,4] K. Soustruznik [‡,61] R. St. Denis [†,19,*] M. Stancari [†,15] J. Stark [‡,66] D. Stentz [†w,15] D.A. Stoyanova [‡,87] M. Strauss [‡,116] J. Strologas [†,34] Y. Sudo [†,49] A. Sukhanov [†,15] I. Suslov [†,13] L. Suter [‡,94] P. Svoisky [‡,116] K. Takemasa [†,49] Y. Takeuchi [†,49] J. Tang [†,11] M. Tecchio [†,31] P.K. Teng [†,1] J. Thom [†f,15] E. Thomson [†,40] V. Thukral [†,47] M. Titov [‡,70] D. Toback [†,47] S. Tokar [†,12] V.V. Tokmenin [‡,13] K. Tollefson [†,32] T. Tomura [†,49] D. Tonelli [†e,15] S. Torre [†,17] D. Torretta [†,15] P. Totaro [†,39] M. Trovato [†ccc,41] Y.-T. Tsai [‡,44] D. Tsybychev [‡,113]

B. Tuchming [‡,70] C. Tully [‡,111] F. Ukegawa [†,49] S. Uozumi [†,25] L. Uvarov [‡,88] S. Uvarov [‡,88] S. Uzunyan [‡,99] R. Van Kooten [‡,101] W.M. van Leeuwen [‡,84] N. Varelas [‡,98] E.W. Varnes [‡,95] I.A. Vasilyev [‡,87] F. Vázquez [†l,16] G. Velev [†,15] C. Vellidis [†,15] A.Y. Verkheev [‡,13] C. Vernieri [†ccc,41] L.S. Vertogradov [‡,13] M. Verzocchi [‡,15] M. Vesterinen [‡,94] M. Vidal [†,43] D. Vilanova [‡,70] R. Vilar [†,9] J. Vizán [†cc,9] M. Vogel [†,34] P. Vokac [‡,62] G. Volpi [†,17] P. Wagner [†,40] H.D. Wahl [‡,97] R. Wallny [†j,15] M.H.L.S. Wang [‡,15] S.M. Wang [†,1] J. Warchol [‡,103] D. Waters [†,28] G. Watts [‡,123] M. Wayne [‡,103] J. Weichert [‡,76] L. Welty-Rieger [‡,100] W.C. Wester III [†,15] D. Whiteson [†c,40] A.B. Wicklund [†,2] S. Wilbur [†,7] H.H. Williams [†,40] M.R.J. Williams [‡xx,101] G.W. Wilson [‡,105] J.S. Wilson [†,31] P. Wilson [†,15] B.L. Winer [†,35] P. Wittich [†f,15] M. Wobisch [‡,106] S. Wolbers [†,15] H. Wolfe [†,35] D.R. Wood [‡,107] T. Wright [†,31] X. Wu [†,18] Z. Wu [†,5] T.R. Wyatt [‡,94] Y. Xie [‡,15] R. Yamada [‡,15] K. Yamamoto [†,37] D. Yamato [†,37] S. Yang [‡,59] T. Yang [†,15] U.K. Yang [†,25] Y.C. Yang [†,25] W.-M. Yao [†,26] T. Yasuda [‡,15] Y.A. Yatsunenko [‡,13] W. Ye [‡,113] Z. Ye [‡,15] G.P. Yeh [†,15] K. Yi [†m,15] H. Yin [‡,15] K. Yip [‡,114] J. Yoh [†,15] K. Yorita [†,52] T. Yoshida [†k,37] S.W. Youn [‡,15] G.B. Yu [†,14] I. Yu [†,25] J.M. Yu [‡,31] A.M. Zanetti [†,48] Y. Zeng [†,14] J. Zennamo [‡,112] T.G. Zhao [‡,94] B. Zhou [‡,31] C. Zhou [†,14] J. Zhu [‡,31] M. Zielinski [‡,44] D. Zieminska [‡,101] L. Zivkovic [‡,69] and S. Zucchelli [†yy6]

(CDF Collaboration),[†]

(D0 Collaboration),[‡]

[1]*Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan 11529, Republic of China*
[2]*Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA*
[3]*University of Athens, 157 71 Athens, Greece*
[4]*Institut de Fisica d'Altes Energies, ICREA, Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, E-08193, Bellaterra (Barcelona), Spain*
[5]*Baylor University, Waco, Texas 76798, USA*
[6]*Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare Bologna, [yy]University of Bologna, I-40127 Bologna, Italy*
[7]*University of California, Davis, Davis, California 95616, USA*
[8]*University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California 90024, USA*
[9]*Instituto de Fisica de Cantabria, CSIC-University of Cantabria, 39005 Santander, Spain*
[10]*Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213, USA*
[11]*Enrico Fermi Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60637, USA*
[12]*Comenius University, 842 48 Bratislava, Slovakia; Institute of Experimental Physics, 040 01 Kosice, Slovakia*
[13]*Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, RU-141980 Dubna, Russia*
[14]*Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27708, USA*
[15]*Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, Illinois 60510, USA*
[16]*University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, USA*
[17]*Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, I-00044 Frascati, Italy*
[18]*University of Geneva, CH-1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland*
[19]*Glasgow University, Glasgow G12 8QQ, United Kingdom*
[20]*Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, USA*
[21]*Division of High Energy Physics, Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, FIN-00014, Helsinki, Finland; Helsinki Institute of Physics, FIN-00014, Helsinki, Finland*
[22]*University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801, USA*
[23]*The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland 21218, USA*
[24]*Institut für Experimentelle Kernphysik, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, D-76131 Karlsruhe, Germany*
[25]*Center for High Energy Physics: Kyungpook National University, Daegu 702-701, Korea; Seoul National University, Seoul 151-742, Korea; Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon 440-746, Korea; Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information, Daejeon 305-806, Korea; Chonnam National University, Gwangju 500-757, Korea; Chonbuk National University, Jeonju 561-756, Korea; Ewha Womans University, Seoul, 120-750, Korea*
[26]*Ernest Orlando Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California 94720, USA*
[27]*University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 7ZE, United Kingdom*
[28]*University College London, London WC1E 6BT, United Kingdom*
[29]*Centro de Investigaciones Energeticas Medioambientales y Tecnologicas, E-28040 Madrid, Spain*
[30]*Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA*
[31]*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109, USA*
[32]*Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824, USA*
[33]*Institution for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, ITEP, Moscow 117259, Russia*
[34]*University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131, USA*
[35]*The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210, USA*
[36]*Okayama University, Okayama 700-8530, Japan*
[37]*Osaka City University, Osaka 558-8585, Japan*
[38]*University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 3RH, United Kingdom*

[39]Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Padova, [zz]University of Padova, I-35131 Padova, Italy
[40]University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, USA
[41]Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare Pisa, [aaa]University of Pisa,
[bbb]University of Siena, [ccc]Scuola Normale Superiore,
I-56127 Pisa, Italy, [ddd]INFN Pavia, I-27100 Pavia,
Italy, [eee]University of Pavia, I-27100 Pavia, Italy
[42]University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260, USA
[43]Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907, USA
[44]University of Rochester, Rochester, New York 14627, USA
[45]The Rockefeller University, New York, New York 10065, USA
[46]Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Roma 1,
[fff]Sapienza Università di Roma, I-00185 Roma, Italy
[47]Mitchell Institute for Fundamental Physics and Astronomy,
Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843, USA
[48]Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare Trieste, [ggg]Gruppo Collegato di Udine,
[hhh]University of Udine, I-33100 Udine, Italy, [iii]University of Trieste, I-34127 Trieste, Italy
[49]University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305, Japan
[50]Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts 02155, USA
[51]University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia 22906, USA
[52]Waseda University, Tokyo 169, Japan
[53]Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan 48201, USA
[54]University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, USA
[55]Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut 06520, USA
[56]LAFEX, Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
[57]Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
[58]Universidade Federal do ABC, Santo André, Brazil
[59]University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, People's Republic of China
[60]Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia
[61]Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics,
Center for Particle Physics, Prague, Czech Republic
[62]Czech Technical University in Prague, Prague, Czech Republic
[63]Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic
[64]Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Quito, Ecuador
[65]LPC, Université Blaise Pascal, CNRS/IN2P3, Clermont, France
[66]LPSC, Université Joseph Fourier Grenoble 1, CNRS/IN2P3,
Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble, Grenoble, France
[67]CPPM, Aix-Marseille Université, CNRS/IN2P3, Marseille, France
[68]LAL, Université Paris-Sud, CNRS/IN2P3, Orsay, France
[69]LPNHE, Universités Paris VI and VII, CNRS/IN2P3, Paris, France
[70]CEA, Irfu, SPP, Saclay, France
[71]IPHC, Université de Strasbourg, CNRS/IN2P3, Strasbourg, France
[72]IPNL, Université Lyon 1, CNRS/IN2P3, Villeurbanne, France and Université de Lyon, Lyon, France
[73]III. Physikalisches Institut A, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany
[74]Physikalisches Institut, Universität Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany
[75]II. Physikalisches Institut, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany
[76]Institut für Physik, Universität Mainz, Mainz, Germany
[77]Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, München, Germany
[78]Panjab University, Chandigarh, India
[79]Delhi University, Delhi, India
[80]Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, India
[81]University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland
[82]Korea Detector Laboratory, Korea University, Seoul, Korea
[83]CINVESTAV, Mexico City, Mexico
[84]Nikhef, Science Park, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
[85]Radboud University Nijmegen, Nijmegen, the Netherlands
[86]Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
[87]Institute for High Energy Physics, Protvino, Russia
[88]Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia
[89]Institució Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats (ICREA) and Institut de Física d'Altes Energies (IFAE), Barcelona, Spain
[90]Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden
[91]Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kiev, Ukraine
[92]Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YB, United Kingdom
[93]Imperial College London, London SW7 2AZ, United Kingdom
[94]The University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, United Kingdom

[95]University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721, USA
[96]University of California Riverside, Riverside, California 92521, USA
[97]Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306, USA
[98]University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60607, USA
[99]Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115, USA
[100]Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois 60208, USA
[101]Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47405, USA
[102]Purdue University Calumet, Hammond, Indiana 46323, USA
[103]University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556, USA
[104]Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011, USA
[105]University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045, USA
[106]Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana 71272, USA
[107]Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA
[108]University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi 38677, USA
[109]University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588, USA
[110]Rutgers University, Piscataway, New Jersey 08855, USA
[111]Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08544, USA
[112]State University of New York, Buffalo, New York 14260, USA
[113]State University of New York, Stony Brook, New York 11794, USA
[114]Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973, USA
[115]Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma 73050, USA
[116]University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73019, USA
[117]Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078, USA
[118]Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island 02912, USA
[119]University of Texas, Arlington, Texas 76019, USA
[120]Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas 75275, USA
[121]Rice University, Houston, Texas 77005, USA
[122]University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia 22904, USA
[123]University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195, USA

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We present the final combination of CDF and D0 measurements of cross sections for single-top-quark production in proton-antiproton collisions at a center-of-mass energy of 1.96 TeV. The data correspond to total integrated luminosities of up to 9.7 fb^{-1} per experiment. The t-channel cross section is measured to be $\sigma_t = 2.25^{+0.29}_{-0.31}$ pb. We also present the combinations of the two-dimensional measurements of the s- vs. t-channel cross sections and of the $s+t$ channel cross section measurement resulting in $\sigma_{s+t} = 3.30^{+0.52}_{-0.40}$ pb, without assuming the standard-model value for the ratio σ_s/σ_t. The resulting value of the magnitude of the top-to-bottom quark coupling is $|V_{tb}| = 1.02^{+0.06}_{-0.05}$, corresponding to $|V_{tb}| > 0.92$ at the 95% C.L.

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The top quark is the heaviest elementary particle of the standard model (SM). Detailed studies of top quark production and decay provide stringent tests of strong and electroweak interactions, as well as sensitivity to extensions of the SM [1]. At the Fermilab Tevatron collider, protons (p) and antiprotons ($\bar{p}$) collided at a center-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV. Top quarks were produced predominantly in pairs ($t\bar{t}$) via the strong interaction [2]. They were also produced singly via the electroweak interaction. The cross section for single-top-quark production depends on the square of the magnitude of the quark-mixing Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) matrix [3] element V_{tb}, and consequently is sensitive to contributions from a fourth generation of quarks [4, 5], as well as other new phenomena [6], which would lead to a measured strength of the Wtb coupling $|V_{tb}|$ different from the SM prediction. Non-SM phenomena could also change the relative fraction of events produced in the various channels that contribute to the total single-top-quark production cross section.

In $p\bar{p}$ scattering, single-top-quark production proceeds in the t-channel via the exchange of a space-like virtual W boson between a light quark and a bottom quark [7–9] in the s-channel via the decay of a time-like virtual W boson produced by quark-antiquark annihilation, which produces a top quark and a bottom quark [10] or in association with a W boson (Wt) [11]. The predicted SM cross section for the t-channel process σ_t is 2.10 ± 0.13 pb [9], while the s-channel cross section σ_s is 1.05 ± 0.06 pb [12], both calculated at next-to-leading-order (NLO) in quantum chromodynamics (QCD) including next-to-next-to-leading log (NNLL) corrections, for a top-quark mass of 172.5 GeV consistent with the current world-average value [13]. The cross section for Wt production σ_{Wt} is negligibly small at the Tevatron and therefore is not considered in the combination described in this Letter. Since

the magnitude of the Wtb coupling is much larger than that of Wtd or of Wts [14], each top quark decays almost exclusively to a W boson and a b quark.

Observation of single-top-quark production was reported by the CDF [15–17] and D0 [18, 19] collaborations in the sum of the s- and the t-channels (hereinafter $s+t$ channel). The CDF collaboration subsequently measured a single-top-quark production cross section for the sum of s, t, and Wt channels $\sigma_{s+t+Wt} = 3.04^{+0.57}_{-0.53}$ pb using data corresponding to 7.5 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity [20] and for the sum of the s and t channels $\sigma_{s+t} = 3.02^{+0.49}_{-0.48}$ pb using up to 9.5 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity [21]. The D0 collaboration obtained $\sigma_{s+t} = 4.11^{+0.60}_{-0.55}$ pb using data corresponding to 9.7 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity [22].

The cross sections for individual production modes were also measured separately. The D0 collaboration observed the t-channel process [23] and measured its cross section to be $\sigma_t = 3.07^{+0.54}_{-0.49}$ pb using data corresponding to 9.7 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity [22]. The CDF collaboration measured $\sigma_{t+Wt} = 1.66^{+0.53}_{-0.47}$ pb using data corresponding to 7.5 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity [20] and $\sigma_t = 1.65^{+0.38}_{-0.36}$ pb using up to 9.5 fb^{-1} [21] of integrated luminosity. The difference between the results for σ_t is about two standard deviations (s. d.). Based on the statistical evidence reported by both collaborations [22, 24, 25], CDF and D0 furthermore combined their results to observe the s-channel process with $\sigma_s = 1.29^{+0.26}_{-0.24}$ pb [26].

At the CERN LHC proton-proton (pp) collider, t-channel production was observed by the ATLAS and CMS collaborations [27–30]. Furthermore, ATLAS has found evidence for Wt associated production [31], followed recently by an observation at the CMS experiment [32]. All measurements are in agreement with SM predictions [9, 12].

In this Letter, we report final combinations of single-top-quark cross section measurements from analyses performed by the CDF [21] and D0 [22] collaborations using up to 9.7 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity per experiment. In particular, we present a combined t-channel cross section, a combined two-dimensional measurement of the s- vs. t-channel cross sections, and a combination of the $s+t$-channel cross sections. The combination is obtained by collecting the inputs from both experiments and reperforming the statistical analysis. This approach allows for a tighter constraint on the systematic uncertainties that are common to both experiments, leading to a higher precision than that achievable from averaging the individual results. Here we do not include the combination of the s-channel cross-section measurements, which was reported in Ref. [26]. We also measure the magnitude of the CKM matrix element V_{tb} with no assumptions on the number of quark flavors.

The CDF and D0 detectors are large solenoidal magnetic spectrometers surrounded by projective-tower-geometry calorimeters and muon detectors [33, 34]. The data were selected using a logical OR of many online selection requirements that preserve high signal efficiency for offline analysis. Both collaborations analyze events with a lepton ($\ell = e$ or μ) plus jets and an imbalance in the total event transverse energy $\not\!\!E_T$ (ℓ+jets), a topology consistent with single-top-quark decays in which the decay W boson subsequently decays to $\ell\nu$ [20, 22]. Events were selected that contain (i) only one isolated lepton ℓ with large transverse momentum p_T, (ii) large $\not\!\!E_T$, (iii) two or three clusters of energy in the calorimeters (jets) with large p_T, with (iv) one or two of these jets identified as having been due to the hadronization of a b quark (b-tagged jets). Multivariate techniques were used to discriminate jets coming from b quarks from jets originating from light quarks and gluons [35, 36]. Additional selection criteria were applied to exclude kinematic regions that were difficult to model and to minimize the background of multiple jets from QCD production (QCD multijet) in which one jet was misreconstructed as a lepton and spurious $\not\!\!E_T$ arose from mismeasurements.

The other final-state topology, analyzed by the CDF collaboration, involves $\not\!\!E_T$, jets, and no reconstructed isolated charged leptons ($\not\!\!E_T$+jets) [21]. In the CDF $\not\!\!E_T$+jets analysis, overlap with the ℓ+jets sample was avoided by vetoing events with identified leptons. Large $\not\!\!E_T$ was required, and events with either two or three reconstructed jets were accepted. This additional sample increased the acceptance for signal events by including those in which the W-boson decay produced a lepton that is either not reconstructed or not isolated, or a τ lepton that decayed into hadrons and a neutrino, which were reconstructed as a third jet. After the basic event selection, QCD multijet events dominate the $\not\!\!E_T$+jets event sample. To reduce this background, a selection based on an artificial neural network was optimized to preferentially select signal-like events.

Events passing the ℓ+jets and $\not\!\!E_T$+jets selections were separated into independent channels based on the number of reconstructed jets as well as on the number and quality of b-tagged jets. Each of the channels has a different background composition and signal-to-background ratio, and analyzing them separately enhances the sensitivity to single-top-quark production by approximately 10% [21, 22].

Several differences in the properties of s- and t-channel events were used to distinguish them from one another. Events originating from t-channel production typically contain one light-flavor jet at large pseudorapidity magnitude $|\eta|$, which is useful for separating them from events associated with s-channel production and other SM background processes. Events from the s-channel process are more likely to yield two b jets within the central region of the detector.

Both collaborations used Monte Carlo (MC) event generators to simulate kinematic properties of signal and

background events, except for multijet production, which was modeled using data. CDF modeled single-top-quark signal events at NLO accuracy in the strong coupling strength α_s using the POWHEG [37] generator. D0 used the SINGLETOP [38] event generator, based on NLO QCD COMPHEP calculations that match the kinematic features predicted by other NLO calculations [39, 40]. Spin information in the decays of the top quark and the W boson is preserved in both POWHEG and SINGLETOP.

Kinematic properties of background events from processes in which a W or Z boson is produced in association with jets (W+jets or Z+jets) were simulated using the ALPGEN leading-order MC generator [41]; those from diboson contributions (WW, WZ and ZZ) were modeled using PYTHIA [42]. The $t\bar{t}$ process was modeled using PYTHIA at CDF and ALPGEN at D0. The mass of the top quark in simulated events was set to $m_t = 172.5$ GeV. Higgs-boson processes were modeled using simulated events generated with PYTHIA for a Higgs boson mass of $m_H = 125$ GeV [43–45]. In all of the above cases, PYTHIA was used to model proton remnants and to simulate the hadronization of all generated partons. The presence of additional $p\bar{p}$ interactions was modeled by overlaying events selected from random beam crossings matching the instantaneous luminosity profile in the data. All MC events were processed through GEANT-based detector simulations [46], and reconstructed using the same computer programs as used for data.

Data were used to normalize W-boson production associated with both light- and heavy-flavor jet contributions in samples enriched in W+jets processes, which have negligible signal content [17, 22, 25]. All other simulated background samples were normalized to their theoretical cross sections, i.e., $t\bar{t}$ at next-to-NLO QCD [47], Z+jets and diboson production at NLO QCD [48], and Higgs-boson production including all relevant higher-order QCD and electroweak corrections [49]. For the measurement of σ_t, the s-channel single-top-quark production sample was considered as background and normalized to the NLO QCD cross section combined with NNLL resummations [12].

Multivariate discriminants were optimized to separate signal events from large background contributions. To combine the results from the two experiments we use the s- and t-channel discriminants from the CDF [24] and D0 [22] single-top-quark measurements. We perform a likelihood fit to the binned distribution of the final discriminants. We combine the various channels of the different analyses from each experiment by taking the product of their likelihoods and simultaneously varying the correlated uncertainties and by comparing data to the predictions for each contributing signal and background process. Using a Bayesian statistical analysis [50], we then derive combined Tevatron cross section measurements, taking the prior density for the signal cross sections to be uniform for non-negative cross sections.

For the sources of uncertainties we follow Ref. [26]. We consider the following systematic uncertainties: the integrated luminosity from detector-specific sources and from the the inelastic and diffractive cross sections. We also consider systematic uncertainties on the signal modeling, the simulation of background, data-based methods to estimate background, detector modeling, b-jet tagging, and the measurement of the jet-energy scale. Table I of Ref. [26] summarizes the categories that contribute to the uncertainties on the shape of the output of the multivariate discriminants distributions and the range of uncertainties applied to the predicted normalizations for signal and background contributions. Reference [26] gives the sources of systematic uncertainty common to measurements of both collaborations that are assumed to be fully correlated, and lists uncertainties that are assumed to be uncorrelated. The dependence of the results on these correlation assumptions is negligible.

A two-dimensional (2D) posterior-probability density is constructed as a function of σ_s and σ_t in analogy to the one-dimensional (1D) posterior probability described in Ref. [26]. The measured cross section is quoted as the value at the position of the maximum, and the 68% probability contour defines the measurement uncertainty.

Figure 1 shows the distributions of the bin mean values from the discriminants sorted by the s-channel minus t-channel expected signal contributions divided by the background expectation. We show the data, the SM predictions for the s- and t-channel processes, and the predicted backgrounds separated by source. The distribution for large negative values is dominated by the content of the bins that show a higher t-channel contribution, while large positive values are dominated by the content of the bins with a higher s-channel contribution. The abscissa extends to larger negative values since we expect more t-channel events than s-channel events and the separation from background is better for t-channel events than for s-channel events. The region corresponding to discriminant values near zero is dominated by the background.

The resulting 2D posterior probability distribution as a function of σ_t and σ_s is presented in Fig. 2. The value and uncertainty in the individual cross sections are derived through the 1D posterior probability functions obtained by integrating the 2D posterior probability over the other variable. The most probable value of σ_t is $2.25^{+0.29}_{-0.31}$ pb. The measurement of σ_{s+t} is performed without making assumptions on the ratio of σ_s/σ_t by forming a 2D posterior probability density distribution of σ_{s+t} versus σ_t and then integrating over all possible values of σ_t to extract the 1D estimate of σ_{s+t}. The combined cross section is $\sigma_{s+t} = 3.30^{+0.52}_{-0.40}$ pb. The total expected uncertainty on σ_{s+t} is 13%, and the expected uncertainty without considering systematic uncertainties is 8%. The systematic uncertainty from the uncertainty on the top-quark mass is negligible compared with the other uncertain-

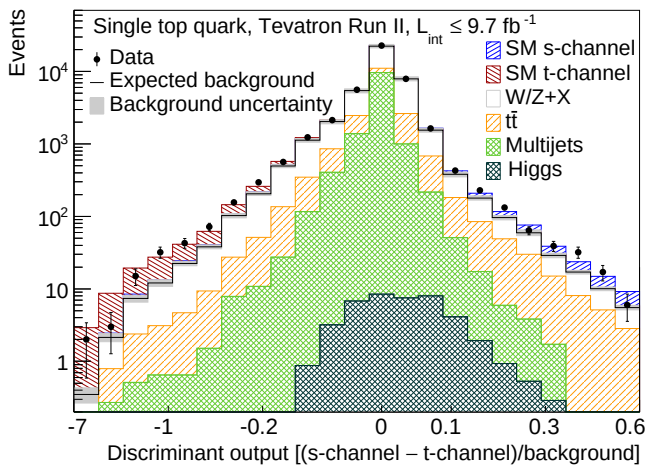

FIG. 1: (Color online) Distribution of the discriminant histograms, summed over bins with similar ratios of (s-channel − t-channel) signals divided by background yields. The data, predicted SM s- and t-channel yields, and expected background are displayed. The total expected background (black solid line) is shown with its uncertainty (grey shaded band). A nonlinear scale is used on the abscissa to better display the range of the discriminant output values.

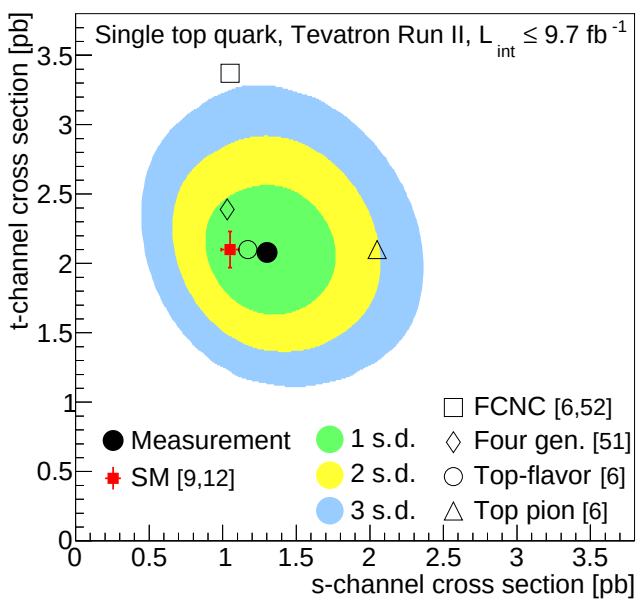

FIG. 2: (Color online) Two-dimensional posterior probability as a function of σ_t and σ_s with one, two, and three s. d. probability contours for the combination of the CDF and D0 analysis channels compared with the NLO+NNLL theoretical prediction of the SM [9, 12]. Several BSM predictions are shown, a model with four quark generations with top-to-strange quark coupling $|V_{ts}| = 0.2$ [51], a top-flavor model with new heavy bosons with mass $m_x = 1$ TeV [6], a model of charged top-pions with mass $m_{\pi^\pm} = 250$ GeV [6], and a model with flavor-changing neutral currents with a 0.036 coupling κ_u/Λ between up-quark top-quark and gluon [6, 52].

ties [17, 22]. Figure 2 also shows the expectation from several beyond the SM (BSM) models. Figure 3 shows the individual [21, 22] and combined (this Letter) measurements of the t- and $s+t$-channel cross sections including previous measurements of the individual [22, 24] and combined [26] s-channel cross sections. All measurements are consistent with SM predictions.

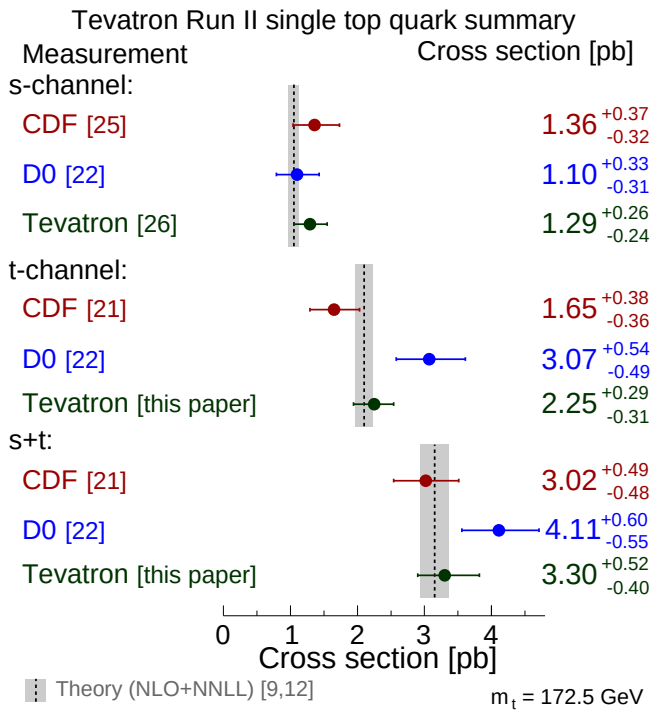

FIG. 3: (Color online) Measured single-top-quark production cross sections from the CDF and D0 collaborations in different production channels and the Tevatron combinations of these analyses compared with the NLO+NNLL theoretical prediction [9, 12].

The SM single-top-quark production cross section is approximately proportional to the square of the CKM matrix element V_{tb}, thus providing a measurement of $|V_{tb}|$ directly without any assumption on the number of quark families or the unitarity of the CKM matrix [53]. We extract $|V_{tb}|$ assuming that top quarks decay exclusively to Wb final states.

We start with the multivariate discriminants for the s and t channels for each experiment and form a Bayesian posterior probability density for $|V_{tb}|^2$ assuming a uniform prior probability distribution in the region $[0, \infty]$. Additionally, the uncertainties on the SM predictions for the s- and t-channel cross sections [9, 12] are considered. The resulting posterior probability distribution for $|V_{tb}|^2$ is presented in Fig. 4. We obtain $|V_{tb}| = 1.02^{+0.06}_{-0.05}$. If we restrict the prior to the SM region [0,1], we extract a limit of $|V_{tb}| > 0.92$ at the 95% C.L.

In summary, using $p\bar{p}$ collision samples corresponding to an integrated luminosity of up to 9.7 fb^{-1} per experi-

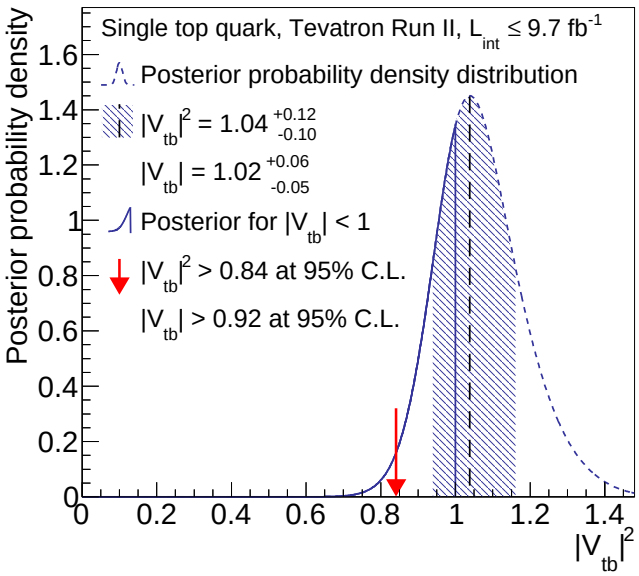

FIG. 4: (Color online) Posterior probability distribution as a function of $|V_{tb}|^2$ for the combination of CDF and D0 analysis channels. The arrow indicates the allowed values of $|V_{tb}|^2$ corresponding to the limit of $|V_{tb}| > 0.92$ at the 95% C.L.

ment, we report the final combination of single-top-quark production cross sections from CDF and D0 measurements assuming $m_t = 172.5$ GeV. The cross section for t-channel production is found to be

$$\sigma_t = 2.25^{+0.29}_{-0.31} \text{ pb}.$$

With no assumption on the relative s- and t-channel contributions, the total single-top-quark production cross section is

$$\sigma_{s+t} = 3.30^{+0.52}_{-0.40} \text{ pb}.$$

Together with the combined s-channel cross section [26], this completes single-top-quark cross-section measurements accessible at the Tevatron. All measurements are consistent with SM predictions [9, 12]. Finally, we extract a direct limit on the CKM matrix element of $|V_{tb}| > 0.92$ at the 95% C.L. As a result, there is no indication of sources of new physics beyond the SM in the measured strength of the Wtb coupling.

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* Deceased
† With visitors from [a]University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1, Canada, [b]Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Cagliari, 09042 Monserrato (Cagliari), Italy, [c]University of California Irvine, Irvine, CA 92697, USA, [d]Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, 182 21, Czech Republic, [e]CERN, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland, [f]Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA, [g]University of Cyprus, Nicosia CY-1678, Cyprus, [h]Office of Science, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585, USA, [i]University College Dublin, Dublin 4, Ireland, [j]ETH, 8092 Zürich, Switzerland, [k]University of Fukui, Fukui City, Fukui Prefecture, Japan 910-0017, [l]Universidad Iberoamericana, Lomas de Santa Fe, México, C.P. 01219, Distrito Federal, [m]University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242, USA, [n]Kinki University, Higashi-Osaka City,

Japan 577-8502, [o]Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506, USA, [p]Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY 11973, USA, [q]Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Lecce, Via Arnesano, I-73100 Lecce, Italy, [r]Queen Mary, University of London, London, E1 4NS, United Kingdom, [s]University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010, Australia, [t]Muons, Inc., Batavia, IL 60510, USA, [u]Nagasaki Institute of Applied Science, Nagasaki 851-0193, Japan, [v]National Research Nuclear University, Moscow 115409, Russia, [w]Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60208, USA, [x]University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556, USA, [y]Universidad de Oviedo, E-33007 Oviedo, Spain, [z]CNRS-IN2P3, Paris, F-75205 France, [aa]Universidad Tecnica Federico Santa Maria, 110v Valparaiso, Chile, [bb]The University of Jordan, Amman 11942, Jordan, [cc]Universite catholique de Louvain, 1348 Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium, [dd]University of Zürich, 8006 Zürich, Switzerland, [ee]Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA 02114 USA, [ff]Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02114 USA, [gg]Hampton University, Hampton, VA 23668, USA, [hh]Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM 87544, USA, [ii]Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico I, I-80138 Napoli, Italy

‡ With visitors from [jj]Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD, USA, [kk]The University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK, [ll]DESY, Hamburg, Germany, [mm]CONACyT, Mexico City, Mexico, [nn]Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo, Morelia, Mexico, [oo]SLAC, Menlo Park, CA, USA, [pp]University College London, London, UK, [qq]Centro de Investigacion en Computacion - IPN, Mexico City, Mexico, [rr]Universidade Estadual Paulista, São Paulo, Brazil, [ss]Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT) - Steinbuch Centre for Computing (SCC), [tt]Office of Science, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. 20585, USA, [uu]American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, D.C. 20005, USA, [vv]National Academy of Science of Ukraine (NASU) - Kiev Institute for Nuclear Research (KINR), [ww]University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, [xx]European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN),

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