

## Inclusive Search for New Physics with Like-Sign Dilepton Events in $p\bar{p}$ Collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV

A. Abulencia,<sup>24</sup> J. Adelman,<sup>13</sup> T. Affolder,<sup>10</sup> T. Akimoto,<sup>56</sup> M. G. Albrow,<sup>17</sup> D. Ambrose,<sup>17</sup> S. Amerio,<sup>44</sup> D. Amidei,<sup>35</sup> A. Anastassov,<sup>53</sup> K. Anikeev,<sup>17</sup> A. Annovi,<sup>19</sup> J. Antos,<sup>14</sup> M. Aoki,<sup>56</sup> G. Apollinari,<sup>17</sup> J.-F. Arguin,<sup>34</sup> T. Arisawa,<sup>58</sup> A. Artikov,<sup>15</sup> W. Ashmanskas,<sup>17</sup> A. Attal,<sup>8</sup> F. Azfar,<sup>43</sup> P. Azzi-Bacchetta,<sup>44</sup> P. Azzurri,<sup>47</sup> N. Bacchetta,<sup>44</sup> W. Badgett,<sup>17</sup> A. Barbaro-Galtieri,<sup>29</sup> V. E. Barnes,<sup>49</sup> B. A. Barnett,<sup>25</sup> S. Baroiant,<sup>7</sup> V. Bartsch,<sup>31</sup> G. Bauer,<sup>33</sup> F. Bedeschi,<sup>47</sup> S. Behari,<sup>25</sup> S. Belforte,<sup>55</sup> G. Bellettini,<sup>47</sup> J. Bellinger,<sup>60</sup> A. Belloni,<sup>33</sup> D. Benjamin,<sup>16</sup> A. Beretvas,<sup>17</sup> J. Beringer,<sup>29</sup> T. Berry,<sup>30</sup> A. Bhatti,<sup>51</sup> M. Binkley,<sup>17</sup> D. Bisello,<sup>44</sup> R. E. Blair,<sup>2</sup> C. Blocker,<sup>6</sup> B. Blumenfeld,<sup>25</sup> A. Bocci,<sup>16</sup> A. Bodek,<sup>50</sup> V. Boisvert,<sup>50</sup> G. Bolla,<sup>49</sup> A. Bolshov,<sup>33</sup> D. Bortoletto,<sup>49</sup> J. Boudreau,<sup>48</sup> A. Boveia,<sup>10</sup> B. Brau,<sup>10</sup> L. Brigliadori,<sup>5</sup> C. Bromberg,<sup>36</sup> E. Brubaker,<sup>13</sup> J. Budagov,<sup>15</sup> H. S. Budd,<sup>50</sup> S. Budd,<sup>24</sup> S. Budroni,<sup>47</sup> K. Burkett,<sup>17</sup> G. Busetto,<sup>44</sup> P. Bussey,<sup>21</sup> K. L. Byrum,<sup>2</sup> S. Cabrera,<sup>16,o</sup> M. Campanelli,<sup>20</sup> M. Campbell,<sup>35</sup> F. Canelli,<sup>17</sup> A. Canepa,<sup>49</sup> S. Carillo,<sup>18,i</sup> D. Carlsmith,<sup>60</sup> R. Carosi,<sup>47</sup> S. Carron,<sup>34</sup> M. Casarsa,<sup>55</sup> A. Castro,<sup>5</sup> P. Catastini,<sup>47</sup> D. Cauz,<sup>55</sup> M. Cavalli-Sforza,<sup>3</sup> A. Cerri,<sup>29</sup> L. Cerrito,<sup>43,m</sup> S. H. Chang,<sup>28</sup> Y. C. Chen,<sup>1</sup> M. Chertok,<sup>7</sup> G. Chiarelli,<sup>47</sup> G. Chlachidze,<sup>15</sup> F. Chlebana,<sup>17</sup> I. Cho,<sup>28</sup> K. Cho,<sup>28</sup> D. Chokheli,<sup>15</sup> J. P. Chou,<sup>22</sup> G. Choudalakis,<sup>33</sup> S. H. Chuang,<sup>60</sup> K. Chung,<sup>12</sup> W. H. Chung,<sup>60</sup> Y. S. Chung,<sup>50</sup> M. Ciljak,<sup>47</sup> C. I. Ciobanu,<sup>24</sup> M. A. Ciocci,<sup>47</sup> A. Clark,<sup>20</sup> D. Clark,<sup>6</sup> M. Coca,<sup>16</sup> G. Compostella,<sup>44</sup> M. E. Convery,<sup>51</sup> J. Conway,<sup>7</sup> B. Cooper,<sup>36</sup> K. Copic,<sup>35</sup> M. Cordelli,<sup>19</sup> G. Cortiana,<sup>44</sup> F. Crescioli,<sup>47</sup> C. Cuenca Almenar,<sup>7,o</sup> J. Cuevas,<sup>11,l</sup> R. Culbertson,<sup>17</sup> J. C. Cully,<sup>35</sup> D. Cyr,<sup>60</sup> S. DaRonce,<sup>44</sup> M. Datta,<sup>17</sup> S. D'Auria,<sup>21</sup> T. Davies,<sup>21</sup> M. D'Onofrio,<sup>3</sup> D. Dagenhart,<sup>6</sup> P. de Barbaro,<sup>50</sup> S. De Cecco,<sup>52</sup> A. Deisher,<sup>29</sup> G. De Lentdecker,<sup>50,c</sup> M. Dell'Orso,<sup>47</sup> F. Delli Paoli,<sup>44</sup> L. Demortier,<sup>51</sup> J. Deng,<sup>16</sup> M. Deninno,<sup>5</sup> D. De Pedis,<sup>52</sup> P. F. Derwent,<sup>17</sup> G. P. Di Giovanni,<sup>45</sup> C. Dionisi,<sup>52</sup> B. Di Ruzza,<sup>55</sup> J. R. Dittmann,<sup>4</sup> P. DiTuro,<sup>53</sup> C. Dörr,<sup>26</sup> S. Donati,<sup>47</sup> M. Donega,<sup>20</sup> P. Dong,<sup>8</sup> J. Donini,<sup>44</sup> T. Dorigo,<sup>44</sup> S. Dube,<sup>53</sup> J. Efron,<sup>40</sup> R. Erbacher,<sup>7</sup> D. Errede,<sup>24</sup> S. Errede,<sup>24</sup> R. Eusebi,<sup>17</sup> H. C. Fang,<sup>29</sup> S. Farrington,<sup>30</sup> I. Fedorko,<sup>47</sup> W. T. Fedorko,<sup>13</sup> R. G. Feild,<sup>61</sup> M. Feindt,<sup>26</sup> J. P. Fernandez,<sup>32</sup> R. Field,<sup>18</sup> G. Flanagan,<sup>49</sup> A. Foland,<sup>22</sup> S. Forrester,<sup>7</sup> G. W. Foster,<sup>17</sup> M. Franklin,<sup>22</sup> J. C. Freeman,<sup>29</sup> I. Furic,<sup>13</sup> M. Gallinaro,<sup>51</sup> J. Galyardt,<sup>12</sup> J. E. Garcia,<sup>47</sup> F. Garbersson,<sup>10</sup> A. F. Garfinkel,<sup>49</sup> C. Gay,<sup>61</sup> H. Gerberich,<sup>24</sup> D. Gerdes,<sup>35</sup> S. Giagu,<sup>52</sup> P. Giannetti,<sup>47</sup> A. Gibson,<sup>29</sup> K. Gibson,<sup>48</sup> J. L. Gimmell,<sup>50</sup> C. Ginsburg,<sup>17</sup> N. Giokaris,<sup>15,a</sup> M. Giordani,<sup>55</sup> P. Giromini,<sup>19</sup> M. Giunta,<sup>47</sup> G. Giurgiu,<sup>12</sup> V. Glagolev,<sup>15</sup> D. Glenzinski,<sup>17</sup> M. Gold,<sup>38</sup> N. Goldschmidt,<sup>18</sup> J. Goldstein,<sup>43,b</sup> A. Golossanov,<sup>17</sup> G. Gomez,<sup>11</sup> G. Gomez-Ceballos,<sup>11</sup> M. Goncharov,<sup>54</sup> O. González,<sup>32</sup> I. Gorelov,<sup>38</sup> A. T. Goshaw,<sup>16</sup> K. Goulianos,<sup>51</sup> A. Gresele,<sup>44</sup> M. Griffiths,<sup>30</sup> S. Grinstein,<sup>22</sup> C. Grosso-Pilcher,<sup>13</sup> R. C. Group,<sup>18</sup> U. Grundler,<sup>24</sup> J. Guimaraes da Costa,<sup>22</sup> Z. Gunay-Unalan,<sup>36</sup> C. Haber,<sup>29</sup> K. Hahn,<sup>33</sup> S. R. Hahn,<sup>17</sup> E. Halkiadakis,<sup>53</sup> A. Hamilton,<sup>34</sup> B.-Y. Han,<sup>50</sup> J. Y. Han,<sup>50</sup> R. Handler,<sup>60</sup> F. Happacher,<sup>19</sup> K. Hara,<sup>56</sup> M. Hare,<sup>57</sup> S. Harper,<sup>43</sup> R. F. Harr,<sup>59</sup> R. M. Harris,<sup>17</sup> M. Hartz,<sup>48</sup> K. Hatakeyama,<sup>51</sup> J. Hauser,<sup>8</sup> A. Heijboer,<sup>46</sup> B. Heinemann,<sup>30</sup> J. Heinrich,<sup>46</sup> C. Henderson,<sup>33</sup> M. Herndon,<sup>60</sup> J. Heuser,<sup>26</sup> D. Hidas,<sup>16</sup> C. S. Hill,<sup>10,b</sup> D. Hirschbuehl,<sup>26</sup> A. Hocker,<sup>17</sup> A. Holloway,<sup>22</sup> S. Hou,<sup>1</sup> M. Houlden,<sup>30</sup> S.-C. Hsu,<sup>9</sup> B. T. Huffman,<sup>43</sup> R. E. Hughes,<sup>40</sup> U. Husemann,<sup>61</sup> J. Huston,<sup>36</sup> J. Incandela,<sup>10</sup> G. Introzzi,<sup>47</sup> M. Iori,<sup>52</sup> Y. Ishizawa,<sup>56</sup> A. Ivanov,<sup>7</sup> B. Iyutin,<sup>33</sup> E. James,<sup>17</sup> D. Jang,<sup>53</sup> B. Jayatilaka,<sup>35</sup> D. Jeans,<sup>52</sup> H. Jensen,<sup>17</sup> E. J. Jeon,<sup>28</sup> S. Jindariani,<sup>18</sup> M. Jones,<sup>49</sup> K. K. Joo,<sup>28</sup> S. Y. Jun,<sup>12</sup> J. E. Jung,<sup>28</sup> T. R. Junk,<sup>24</sup> T. Kamon,<sup>54</sup> P. E. Karchin,<sup>59</sup> Y. Kato,<sup>42</sup> Y. Kemp,<sup>26</sup> R. Kephart,<sup>17</sup> U. Kerzel,<sup>26</sup> V. Khotilovich,<sup>54</sup> B. Kilminster,<sup>40</sup> D. H. Kim,<sup>28</sup> H. S. Kim,<sup>28</sup> J. E. Kim,<sup>28</sup> M. J. Kim,<sup>12</sup> S. B. Kim,<sup>28</sup> S. H. Kim,<sup>56</sup> Y. K. Kim,<sup>13</sup> N. Kimura,<sup>56</sup> L. Kirsch,<sup>6</sup> S. Klimentenko,<sup>18</sup> M. Klute,<sup>33</sup> B. Knuteson,<sup>33</sup> B. R. Ko,<sup>16</sup> K. Kondo,<sup>58</sup> D. J. Kong,<sup>28</sup> J. Konigsberg,<sup>18</sup> A. Korytov,<sup>18</sup> A. V. Kotwal,<sup>16</sup> A. Kovalev,<sup>46</sup> A. C. Kraan,<sup>46</sup> J. Kraus,<sup>24</sup> I. Kravchenko,<sup>33</sup> M. Kreps,<sup>26</sup> J. Kroll,<sup>46</sup> N. Krumnack,<sup>4</sup> M. Kruse,<sup>16</sup> V. Krutelyov,<sup>10</sup> T. Kubo,<sup>56</sup> S. E. Kuhlmann,<sup>2</sup> T. Kuhr,<sup>26</sup> Y. Kusakabe,<sup>58</sup> S. Kwang,<sup>13</sup> A. T. Laasanen,<sup>49</sup> S. Lai,<sup>34</sup> S. Lami,<sup>47</sup> S. Lammel,<sup>17</sup> M. Lancaster,<sup>31</sup> R. L. Lander,<sup>7</sup> K. Lannon,<sup>40</sup> A. Lath,<sup>53</sup> G. Latino,<sup>47</sup> I. Lazzizzera,<sup>44</sup> T. LeCompte,<sup>2</sup> J. Lee,<sup>50</sup> J. Lee,<sup>28</sup> Y. J. Lee,<sup>28</sup> S. W. Lee,<sup>54,n</sup> R. Lefèvre,<sup>3</sup> N. Leonardo,<sup>33</sup> S. Leone,<sup>47</sup> S. Levy,<sup>13</sup> J. D. Lewis,<sup>17</sup> C. Lin,<sup>61</sup> C. S. Lin,<sup>17</sup> M. Lindgren,<sup>17</sup> E. Lipeles,<sup>9</sup> A. Lister,<sup>7</sup> D. O. Litvintsev,<sup>17</sup> T. Liu,<sup>17</sup> N. S. Lockyer,<sup>46</sup> A. Loginov,<sup>61</sup> M. Loreti,<sup>44</sup> P. Loverre,<sup>52</sup> R.-S. Lu,<sup>1</sup> D. Lucchesi,<sup>44</sup> P. Lujan,<sup>29</sup> P. Lukens,<sup>17</sup> G. Lungu,<sup>18</sup> L. Lyons,<sup>43</sup> J. Lys,<sup>29</sup> R. Lysak,<sup>14</sup> E. Lytken,<sup>49</sup> P. Mack,<sup>26</sup> D. MacQueen,<sup>34</sup> R. Madrak,<sup>17</sup> K. Maeshima,<sup>17</sup> K. Makhoul,<sup>33</sup> T. Maki,<sup>23</sup> P. Maksimovic,<sup>25</sup> S. Malde,<sup>43</sup> G. Manca,<sup>30</sup> F. Margaroli,<sup>5</sup> R. Marginean,<sup>17</sup> C. Marino,<sup>26</sup> C. P. Marino,<sup>24</sup> A. Martin,<sup>61</sup> M. Martin,<sup>25</sup> V. Martin,<sup>21,g</sup> M. Martínez,<sup>3</sup> T. Maruyama,<sup>56</sup> P. Mastrandrea,<sup>52</sup> T. Masubuchi,<sup>56</sup> H. Matsunaga,<sup>56</sup> M. E. Mattson,<sup>59</sup> R. Mazini,<sup>34</sup> P. Mazzanti,<sup>5</sup> K. S. McFarland,<sup>50</sup> P. McIntyre,<sup>54</sup> R. McNulty,<sup>30,f</sup> A. Mehta,<sup>30</sup> P. Mehtala,<sup>23</sup> S. Menzemer,<sup>11,h</sup> A. Menzione,<sup>47</sup> P. Merkel,<sup>49</sup> C. Mesropian,<sup>51</sup> A. Messina,<sup>36</sup> T. Miao,<sup>17</sup> N. Miladinovic,<sup>6</sup> J. Miles,<sup>33</sup> R. Miller,<sup>36</sup> C. Mills,<sup>10</sup> M. Milnik,<sup>26</sup> A. Mitra,<sup>1</sup> G. Mitselmakher,<sup>18</sup> A. Miyamoto,<sup>27</sup> S. Moed,<sup>20</sup> N. Moggi,<sup>5</sup> B. Mohr,<sup>8</sup> R. Moore,<sup>17</sup> M. Morello,<sup>47</sup>

P. Movilla Fernandez,<sup>29</sup> J. Mülmenstädt,<sup>29</sup> A. Mukherjee,<sup>17</sup> Th. Muller,<sup>26</sup> R. Mumford,<sup>25</sup> P. Murat,<sup>17</sup> J. Nachtman,<sup>17</sup> A. Nagano,<sup>56</sup> J. Naganoma,<sup>58</sup> I. Nakano,<sup>41</sup> A. Napier,<sup>57</sup> V. Necula,<sup>18</sup> C. Neu,<sup>46</sup> M. S. Neubauer,<sup>9</sup> J. Nielsen,<sup>29</sup> T. Nigmanov,<sup>48</sup> L. Nodulman,<sup>2</sup> O. Normiella,<sup>3</sup> E. Nurse,<sup>31</sup> S. H. Oh,<sup>16</sup> Y. D. Oh,<sup>28</sup> I. Oksuzian,<sup>18</sup> T. Okusawa,<sup>42</sup> R. Oldeman,<sup>30</sup> R. Orava,<sup>23</sup> K. Osterberg,<sup>23</sup> C. Pagliarone,<sup>47</sup> E. Palencia,<sup>11</sup> V. Papadimitriou,<sup>17</sup> A. A. Paramonov,<sup>13</sup> B. Parks,<sup>40</sup> S. Pashapour,<sup>34</sup> J. Patrick,<sup>17</sup> G. Pauletta,<sup>55</sup> M. Paulini,<sup>12</sup> C. Paus,<sup>33</sup> D. E. Pellett,<sup>7</sup> A. Penzo,<sup>55</sup> T. J. Phillips,<sup>16</sup> G. Piacentino,<sup>47</sup> J. Piedra,<sup>45</sup> L. Pinera,<sup>18</sup> K. Pitts,<sup>24</sup> C. Plager,<sup>8</sup> L. Pondrom,<sup>60</sup> X. Portell,<sup>3</sup> O. Poukhov,<sup>15</sup> N. Pounder,<sup>43</sup> F. Prakoshyn,<sup>15</sup> A. Pronko,<sup>17</sup> J. Proudfoot,<sup>2</sup> F. Ptohos,<sup>19,e</sup> G. Punzi,<sup>47</sup> J. Pursley,<sup>25</sup> J. Rademacker,<sup>43,b</sup> A. Rahaman,<sup>48</sup> N. Ranjan,<sup>49</sup> S. Rappoccio,<sup>22</sup> B. Reisert,<sup>17</sup> V. Rekovic,<sup>38</sup> P. Renton,<sup>43</sup> M. Rescigno,<sup>52</sup> S. Richter,<sup>26</sup> F. Rimondi,<sup>5</sup> L. Ristori,<sup>47</sup> A. Robson,<sup>21</sup> T. Rodrigo,<sup>11</sup> E. Rogers,<sup>24</sup> S. Rolli,<sup>57</sup> R. Roser,<sup>17</sup> M. Rossi,<sup>55</sup> R. Rossin,<sup>18</sup> A. Ruiz,<sup>11</sup> J. Russ,<sup>12</sup> V. Rusu,<sup>13</sup> H. Saarikko,<sup>23</sup> S. Sabik,<sup>34</sup> A. Safonov,<sup>54</sup> W. K. Sakumoto,<sup>50</sup> G. Salamanna,<sup>52</sup> O. Saltó,<sup>3</sup> D. Saltzberg,<sup>8</sup> C. Sánchez,<sup>3</sup> L. Santi,<sup>55</sup> S. Sarkar,<sup>52</sup> L. Sartori,<sup>47</sup> K. Sato,<sup>17</sup> P. Savard,<sup>34</sup> A. Savoy-Navarro,<sup>45</sup> T. Scheidle,<sup>26</sup> P. Schlabach,<sup>17</sup> E. E. Schmidt,<sup>17</sup> M. P. Schmidt,<sup>61</sup> M. Schmitt,<sup>39</sup> T. Schwarz,<sup>7</sup> L. Scodellaro,<sup>11</sup> A. L. Scott,<sup>10</sup> A. Scribano,<sup>47</sup> F. Scuri,<sup>47</sup> A. Sedov,<sup>49</sup> S. Seidel,<sup>38</sup> Y. Seiya,<sup>42</sup> A. Semenov,<sup>15</sup> L. Sexton-Kennedy,<sup>17</sup> A. Sfyrla,<sup>20</sup> M. D. Shapiro,<sup>29</sup> T. Shears,<sup>30</sup> P. F. Shepard,<sup>48</sup> D. Sherman,<sup>22</sup> M. Shimojima,<sup>56,k</sup> M. Shochet,<sup>13</sup> Y. Shon,<sup>60</sup> I. Shreyber,<sup>37</sup> A. Sidoti,<sup>47</sup> P. Sinervo,<sup>34</sup> A. Sisakyan,<sup>15</sup> J. Sjolín,<sup>43</sup> A. J. Slaughter,<sup>17</sup> J. Slaunwhite,<sup>40</sup> K. Sliwa,<sup>57</sup> J. R. Smith,<sup>7</sup> F. D. Snider,<sup>17</sup> R. Snihur,<sup>34</sup> M. Soderberg,<sup>35</sup> A. Soha,<sup>7</sup> S. Somalwar,<sup>53</sup> V. Sorin,<sup>36</sup> J. Spalding,<sup>17</sup> F. Spinella,<sup>47</sup> T. Spreitzer,<sup>34</sup> P. Squillacioti,<sup>47</sup> M. Stanitzki,<sup>61</sup> A. Staveris-Polykalas,<sup>47</sup> R. St. Denis,<sup>21</sup> B. Stelzer,<sup>8</sup> O. Stelzer-Chilton,<sup>43</sup> D. Stentz,<sup>39</sup> J. Strologas,<sup>38</sup> D. Stuart,<sup>10</sup> J. S. Suh,<sup>28</sup> A. Sukhanov,<sup>18</sup> H. Sun,<sup>57</sup> T. Suzuki,<sup>56</sup> A. Taffard,<sup>24</sup> R. Takashima,<sup>41</sup> Y. Takeuchi,<sup>56</sup> K. Takikawa,<sup>56</sup> M. Tanaka,<sup>2</sup> R. Tanaka,<sup>41</sup> M. Tecchio,<sup>35</sup> P. K. Teng,<sup>1</sup> K. Terashi,<sup>51</sup> J. Thom,<sup>17,d</sup> A. S. Thompson,<sup>21</sup> E. Thomson,<sup>46</sup> P. Tipton,<sup>61</sup> V. Tiwari,<sup>12</sup> S. Tkaczyk,<sup>17</sup> D. Toback,<sup>54</sup> S. Tokar,<sup>14</sup> K. Tollefson,<sup>36</sup> T. Tomura,<sup>56</sup> D. Tonelli,<sup>47</sup> S. Torre,<sup>19</sup> D. Torretta,<sup>17</sup> S. Tournear,<sup>45</sup> W. Trischuk,<sup>34</sup> R. Tsuchiya,<sup>58</sup> S. Tsuno,<sup>41</sup> N. Turini,<sup>47</sup> F. Ukegawa,<sup>56</sup> T. Unverhau,<sup>21</sup> S. Uozumi,<sup>56</sup> D. Usynin,<sup>46</sup> S. Vallecorsa,<sup>20</sup> N. van Remortel,<sup>23</sup> A. Varganov,<sup>35</sup> E. Vataga,<sup>38</sup> F. Vázquez,<sup>18,i</sup> G. Velev,<sup>17</sup> G. Veramendi,<sup>24</sup> V. Veszpremi,<sup>49</sup> R. Vidal,<sup>17</sup> I. Vila,<sup>11</sup> R. Vilar,<sup>11</sup> T. Vine,<sup>31</sup> I. Vollrath,<sup>34</sup> I. Volobouev,<sup>29,n</sup> G. Volpi,<sup>47</sup> F. Würthwein,<sup>9</sup> P. Wagner,<sup>54</sup> R. G. Wagner,<sup>2</sup> R. L. Wagner,<sup>17</sup> J. Wagner,<sup>26</sup> W. Wagner,<sup>26</sup> R. Wallny,<sup>8</sup> S. M. Wang,<sup>1</sup> A. Warburton,<sup>34</sup> S. Waschke,<sup>21</sup> D. Waters,<sup>31</sup> M. Weinberger,<sup>54</sup> W. C. Wester III,<sup>17</sup> B. Whitehouse,<sup>57</sup> D. Whiteson,<sup>46</sup> A. B. Wicklund,<sup>2</sup> E. Wicklund,<sup>17</sup> G. Williams,<sup>34</sup> H. H. Williams,<sup>46</sup> P. Wilson,<sup>17</sup> B. L. Winer,<sup>40</sup> P. Wittich,<sup>17,d</sup> S. Wolbers,<sup>17</sup> C. Wolfe,<sup>13</sup> T. Wright,<sup>35</sup> X. Wu,<sup>20</sup> S. M. Wynne,<sup>30</sup> A. Yagil,<sup>17</sup> K. Yamamoto,<sup>42</sup> J. Yamaoka,<sup>53</sup> T. Yamashita,<sup>41</sup> C. Yang,<sup>61</sup> U. K. Yang,<sup>13,j</sup> Y. C. Yang,<sup>28</sup> W. M. Yao,<sup>29</sup> G. P. Yeh,<sup>17</sup> J. Yoh,<sup>17</sup> K. Yorita,<sup>13</sup> T. Yoshida,<sup>42</sup> G. B. Yu,<sup>50</sup> I. Yu,<sup>28</sup> S. S. Yu,<sup>17</sup> J. C. Yun,<sup>17</sup> L. Zanello,<sup>52</sup> A. Zanetti,<sup>55</sup> I. Zaw,<sup>22</sup> X. Zhang,<sup>24</sup> J. Zhou,<sup>53</sup> and S. Zucchelli<sup>5</sup>

(CDF Collaboration)

<sup>1</sup>*Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan 11529, Republic of China*<sup>2</sup>*Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA*<sup>3</sup>*Institut de Física d'Altes Energies, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, E-08193, Bellaterra (Barcelona), Spain*<sup>4</sup>*Baylor University, Waco, Texas 76798, USA*<sup>5</sup>*Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, University of Bologna, I-40127 Bologna, Italy*<sup>6</sup>*Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts 02254, USA*<sup>7</sup>*University of California, Davis, Davis, California 95616, USA*<sup>8</sup>*University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California 90024, USA*<sup>9</sup>*University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California 92093, USA*<sup>10</sup>*University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California 93106, USA*<sup>11</sup>*Instituto de Física de Cantabria, CSIC-University of Cantabria, 39005 Santander, Spain*<sup>12</sup>*Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213, USA*<sup>13</sup>*Enrico Fermi Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60637, USA*<sup>14</sup>*Comenius University, 842 48 Bratislava, Slovakia; Institute of Experimental Physics, 040 01 Kosice, Slovakia*<sup>15</sup>*Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, RU-141980 Dubna, Russia*<sup>16</sup>*Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27708, USA*<sup>17</sup>*Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, Illinois 60510, USA*<sup>18</sup>*University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, USA*<sup>19</sup>*Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, I-00044 Frascati, Italy*<sup>20</sup>*University of Geneva, CH-1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland*<sup>21</sup>*Glasgow University, Glasgow G12 8QQ, United Kingdom*<sup>22</sup>*Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, USA*

- <sup>23</sup>*Division of High Energy Physics, Department of Physics, University of Helsinki and Helsinki Institute of Physics, FIN-00014, Helsinki, Finland*
- <sup>24</sup>*University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801, USA*
- <sup>25</sup>*The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland 21218, USA*
- <sup>26</sup>*Institut für Experimentelle Kernphysik, Universität Karlsruhe, 76128 Karlsruhe, Germany*
- <sup>27</sup>*High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK), Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305, Japan*
- <sup>28</sup>*Center for High Energy Physics: Kyungpook National University, Taegu 702-701, Korea; Seoul National University, Seoul 151-742, Korea; and SungKyunKwan University, Suwon 440-746, Korea*
- <sup>29</sup>*Ernest Orlando Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California 94720, USA*
- <sup>30</sup>*University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 7ZE, United Kingdom*
- <sup>31</sup>*University College London, London WC1E 6BT, United Kingdom*
- <sup>32</sup>*Centro de Investigaciones Energeticas Medioambientales y Tecnologicas, E-28040 Madrid, Spain*
- <sup>33</sup>*Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA*
- <sup>34</sup>*Institute of Particle Physics: McGill University, Montréal, Canada H3A 2T8 and University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada M5S 1A7*
- <sup>35</sup>*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109, USA*
- <sup>36</sup>*Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824, USA*
- <sup>37</sup>*Institution for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, ITEP, Moscow 117259, Russia*
- <sup>38</sup>*University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131, USA*
- <sup>39</sup>*Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois 60208, USA*
- <sup>40</sup>*The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210, USA*
- <sup>41</sup>*Okayama University, Okayama 700-8530, Japan*
- <sup>42</sup>*Osaka City University, Osaka 588, Japan*
- <sup>43</sup>*University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 3RH, United Kingdom*
- <sup>44</sup>*Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Padova-Trento, University of Padova, I-35131 Padova, Italy*
- <sup>45</sup>*LPNHE, Universite Pierre et Marie Curie/IN2P3-CNRS, UMR7585, Paris, F-75252 France*
- <sup>46</sup>*University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, USA*
- <sup>47</sup>*Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare Pisa, Universities of Pisa, Siena and Scuola Normale Superiore, I-56127 Pisa, Italy*
- <sup>48</sup>*University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260, USA*
- <sup>49</sup>*Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907, USA*
- <sup>50</sup>*University of Rochester, Rochester, New York 14627, USA*
- <sup>51</sup>*The Rockefeller University, New York, New York 10021, USA*
- <sup>52</sup>*Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Roma 1, University of Rome "La Sapienza," I-00185 Roma, Italy*
- <sup>53</sup>*Rutgers University, Piscataway, New Jersey 08855, USA*
- <sup>54</sup>*Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843, USA*
- <sup>55</sup>*Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, University of Trieste/Udine, Italy*
- <sup>56</sup>*University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305, Japan*
- <sup>57</sup>*Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts 02155, USA*
- <sup>58</sup>*Waseda University, Tokyo 169, Japan*
- <sup>59</sup>*Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan 48201, USA*
- <sup>60</sup>*University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, USA*
- <sup>61</sup>*Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut 06520, USA*

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We describe a search for anomalous production of events with two leptons ( $e$  or  $\mu$ ) of the same electric charge in  $p\bar{p}$  collisions at a center-of-mass energy of 1.96 TeV. Many extensions to the standard model predict the production of two leptons of the same electric charge. This search has a significant increase in sensitivity compared to earlier searches. Using a data sample corresponding to  $1 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of integrated luminosity recorded by the CDF II detector, we observe no significant excess in an inclusive selection (expect  $33.2 \pm 4.7$  events, observe 44) or in a supersymmetry-optimized selection (expect  $7.8 \pm 1.1$  events, observe 13.)

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The standard model (SM) of particle physics successfully describes all experimental data taken in high energy collisions so far. Despite its successes, there are strong indications that this theory is only an effective low-energy model and new physics must be present at a higher energy

scale. An excellent signature to search for deviations from the SM is production of two leptons with both leptons of the same electric charge. This signature occurs naturally in many extensions to the SM and occurs rather rarely in SM interactions.

An example of a model predicting like-sign dileptons is one with a Majorana particle that decays through SM-like bosons into leptons. Heavy Majorana neutrinos ( $\nu_M$ ) can be produced in  $p\bar{p}$  collisions in association with a lepton through a virtual  $W$  boson ( $p\bar{p} \rightarrow \nu_M \ell^\pm X$ ) [1]. This new particle can subsequently decay to a  $W$  and another lepton ( $\nu_M \rightarrow W^\pm \ell^\mp$ ). Given the Majorana nature of this neutrino, i.e., that it is its own antiparticle, more than half of such events will contain like-sign dileptons in the final state. Another example is the class of models that predict new heavy analogs to the  $W$  and  $Z$  bosons. For instance, in supersymmetric extensions of the SM, a chargino-neutralino pair can be produced ( $p\bar{p} \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^\pm \tilde{\chi}_2^0 X$ ) and decay into final states with three charged leptons ( $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm \rightarrow \ell^\pm \nu \tilde{\chi}_1^0$  and  $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow \ell^\pm \ell^\mp \tilde{\chi}_1^0$ ) [2]. Two of those three leptons will have the same charge.

The CDF and D0 Collaborations have previously investigated events with two same-charge leptons [3,4]. In this Letter, we present a more general search using data collected with the CDF II detector during the Tevatron's Run II data-taking phase at a center-of-mass energy of 1.96 TeV. We select events as inclusively as possible without optimizing for any particular new physics scenario. To avoid bias, we fix the final event selection criteria before examining the event yield in the signal region. The selection produces a relatively small sample that we investigate for deviations from SM predictions, both in the total number of events and in the shape of kinematic distributions. We use a data sample corresponding to  $1 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of integrated luminosity collected between March 2002 and February 2006. This search has better acceptance and examines between a factor of 3 and a factor of 10 more integrated luminosity compared to earlier searches in the same channel, resulting in roughly a factor of 3 increase in the sensitivity to new physics.

The CDF II detector is a general purpose particle detector and is described in detail elsewhere [5]. It has a solenoidal charged particle spectrometer, consisting of 7–8 layers of silicon microstrip detectors and a cylindrical drift chamber immersed in a 1.4 T solenoidal magnetic field, a segmented sampling calorimeter, and a set of charged particle detectors outside the calorimeter used to identify muon candidates. The fiducial region of the silicon microstrip detector extends to  $|\eta| \sim 2$  [6], while the drift chamber provides tracking for  $|\eta| \lesssim 1$ . The curvature resolution of the chamber is  $\sigma_C = 3.6 \times 10^{-6} \text{ cm}^{-1}$  [7]. The curvature corresponding to a track with momentum of 100 GeV/ $c$  is  $2.1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The sign of the curvature of a track with 100 GeV/ $c$  of transverse momentum, and hence the charge of such a particle, is thus typically determined with a significance of better than 5 standard deviations.

We use data collected with a high-momentum central lepton trigger, which identifies events with an electron candidate with  $E_T > 18 \text{ GeV}$  and  $|\eta| \lesssim 1$  or a muon can-

didate with  $p_T > 18 \text{ GeV}/c$  and similar  $\eta$  requirements. We select events with a pair of same-charge leptons (electrons or muons) regardless of other activity in the event. This analysis uses lepton candidates with  $|\eta| \lesssim 1$ . The tracks associated with the leptons have to share a common vertex; i.e., they come from the same  $p\bar{p}$  interaction. We define the two highest-momentum charged leptons passing our selections as the leading and subleading lepton. We select leading and subleading electrons that fulfill the following requirements on the transverse component of the energy:  $E_T > 20 \text{ GeV}$  and  $E_T > 10 \text{ GeV}$ , respectively. We select muons that pass similar transverse momentum requirements. We remove photon-conversion electrons using a procedure described below. Cosmic-ray muons are identified and removed by looking for a track opposite to the reconstructed muon candidate which has timing information that is consistent with a particle moving toward the beam line rather than away from it. We also place a minimum requirement on the invariant mass of the lepton pair,  $m_{\ell\ell} > 25 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ , to remove the large background from Drell-Yan and heavy quark production at low mass. The leptons must be isolated from other particles in the event, both in the calorimeter and in the tracking chamber. An electron (muon) is considered to be isolated in the calorimeter if the sum of the transverse energy within a cone  $\Delta R \equiv \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2} \leq 0.4$ , minus the lepton  $E_T$ , is less than 10% of the lepton  $E_T(p_T)$ . Similarly, if the total transverse momentum of all other tracks within a cone  $\Delta R \leq 0.4$  around the lepton is less than 10% of the candidate track  $p_T$ , the lepton is considered to be isolated in the tracking chamber.

SM backgrounds that produce like-sign dileptons in the final state include Drell-Yan dilepton production with a photon that is radiated off a final-state lepton and converts into an  $e^+e^-$  pair which fails our conversion identification algorithm (i.e., is not “tagged”) as well as diboson production. The latter includes on- and off-shell  $ZZ$  and  $WZ$  production followed by decay into leptonic final states, as well as  $Z\gamma$  and  $W\gamma$  with the photon converting into two electrons inside the detector. In the following, we refer to the above Drell-Yan and  $Z\gamma$  processes as  $\ell\ell\gamma$  backgrounds and to the  $W\gamma$  and  $WZ$  processes as  $WV$ . Events with  $W(\rightarrow \ell\nu) + 1 \text{ jet}$  and  $Z(\rightarrow \ell\ell) + 1 \text{ jet}$  where the jet is falsely identified as a lepton can also result in two lepton candidates with the same charge. Contributions from  $t\bar{t}$ ,  $b\bar{b}$  backgrounds are found to be negligible.

To estimate the background contribution from the  $\ell\ell\gamma$  and diboson processes, we determine geometric and kinematic acceptance using Monte Carlo calculations followed by a GEANT-based simulation of the CDF II detector [8]. We use the Monte Carlo generator described in Ref. [9] for the  $W\gamma$  background, MADEVENT for the  $WZ$  background [10], and PYTHIA for the other SM processes [11]. We use the CTEQ5L parton distribution functions to model the momentum distribution of the initial-state partons [12].

The expected number of events for each background component is determined as the product of the cross section, the luminosity of the sample, and the acceptance of the detector. The last is corrected for trigger efficiency and differences in lepton reconstruction efficiency between the data and the simulation. These efficiencies are derived via studies of  $W(\rightarrow \ell\nu)$  and  $Z(\rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-)$  events, and the differences are typically less than 10%.

Events with untagged photon conversions represent the dominant background to this search. To tag photon conversions, we take advantage of the kinematic condition that the trajectories of the electron and the positron from the photon are approximately parallel at the conversion point. We define the following variables:  $\Delta s$  is the distance in the transverse plane between the two tracks at the point that the two tracks are parallel,  $\Delta \cot(\theta)$  is the difference in the cotangents of the polar angles between the two tracks, and  $\Delta z$  is the distance in the  $z$  dimension between the two points on the tracks used to compute  $\Delta s$ . A track pair is tagged as a photon conversion if  $\Delta s < 1.1$  cm,  $|\Delta \cot(\theta)| < 0.26$ , and  $\Delta z < 1.2$  cm. These thresholds are chosen to maximize the rejection power for conversions while having a negligible impact on the efficiency for nonconversion electrons. Conversion tagging will fail due to inefficiencies of the above selection or due to very asymmetric conversions, where the momentum of either the electron or the positron drops below our track selection threshold of  $p_T > 500$  MeV/ $c$ .

Processes producing opposite-charge leptons, such as Drell-Yan dilepton production, can contribute to our backgrounds if one of the lepton tracks is poorly measured and its charge is incorrectly reconstructed. The charge of a particle is determined from the direction the particle curves in the magnetic field. We test our understanding of the charge misassignment mechanism by examining the modeling of the curvature uncertainty. The uncertainty on the curvature measured in the tracking chamber provides an estimate of the probability of incorrectly measuring the sign of a track's curvature. For this purpose, we select electrons from events with two electrons where one electron is identified based solely on its energy deposits in the calorimeter and examine the curvature uncertainty for this particle. We find that the uncertainty on the track curvature of this data sample is well described by our simulation of the detector. The estimated residual background from events containing a lepton with an incorrectly reconstructed charge is less than 0.1 events in the current sample.

Jets in  $W + \text{jet}$  and  $Z + \text{jet}$  events can be misidentified as leptons ("fakes") and paired with the lepton from the gauge boson decay to form a same-charge candidate event. We estimate this background by selecting a sample of events with one or more high-momentum leptons that pass our selection criteria, omitting events with same-sign lepton candidates. We determine the number of events in our final selection from this fake background by multi-

plying the number of isolated tracks in this sample by the misidentification probability ("fake rate"). This probability is measured in a sample triggered by at least one jet with  $E_T > 50$  GeV and is defined as the number of identified leptons, divided by the total number of isolated tracks. We parametrize the fake rate as a function of  $p_T$  and  $\eta$ .

As a further means of controlling untagged photon conversions, we divide the electron candidates into two categories: with and without energy depositions in the silicon microstrip detector ("silicon hits"). Since most photon conversions occur either in the material of this detector or in the inner wall of the drift chamber, electrons with silicon hits are less likely to come from a conversion process. We consider the more pure category of electrons with silicon hits ( $e_{\text{Si}}$ ) separately from those without ( $e$ ). By considering these two classes independently rather than requiring all electrons to have silicon hits, we do not lose acceptance due to inefficiencies in the silicon microstrip detector but gain in statistical power.

We perform numerous tests to assure that we are able to model our backgrounds. These tests can be split into two categories: those that test the overall normalization of a background and those that test our ability to model detector performance. To probe the overall normalization of the diboson  $Z\gamma$  background estimate, we select events with two leptons and a photon with transverse momentum thresholds of 20, 10, and 10 GeV/ $c$ , respectively. The predicted number of events for this selection is  $258 \pm 16$  events, dominated by  $Z\gamma$  production. We observe 258 events, in good agreement. Similarly, we probe the normalization of the  $W\gamma$  background by selecting events with one lepton with  $p_T > 20$  GeV/ $c$ , a photon with  $E_T > 10$  GeV, and  $\cancel{E}_T > 15$  GeV. Using this selection, we expect  $1493 \pm 90$  events, dominated by  $W\gamma$  production. We observe 1540 events, in good agreement with our expectation. For both of the above measurements, we require the photon to be well separated from either the electron or muon, thereby effectively limiting the contribution from photons radiated in the material of the detector. We check our modeling of the material in the detector by selecting events with one electron, one photon, and  $\cancel{E}_T < 20$  GeV. These are mostly Drell-Yan events in which one electron has lost most of its energy to a radiated photon. For this selection, we predict  $243 \pm 15$  events and observe 269, thereby validating our understanding of the detector material. Other backgrounds are tested using dedicated selection criteria. We obtain good agreement between the observed and predicted events both in integral counts and kinematic distributions in all regions considered.

The uncertainty on the number of predicted background events is dominated by the uncertainty on the luminosity measurement (5%), the fake estimate (5%), and the conversion modeling (10%). Other uncertainties include those associated with the SM cross sections, lepton reconstruction, and the statistical uncertainty on the Monte Carlo acceptance calculation.

TABLE I. Event counts predicted ( $n_{\text{pred}}$ ) and observed ( $n_{\text{obs}}$ ), per category. The uncertainties for different channels are correlated.  $n_{\ell\ell\gamma}$ ,  $n_{WV}$ ,  $n_{ZZ}$ , and  $n_{\text{fake}}$  refer to the number of background events predicted in the  $\ell\ell\gamma$ ,  $WV$  ( $V = Z$  or  $\gamma$ ),  $ZZ$ , and “fake” categories, respectively, and  $n_{\text{pred}}$  is the sum.  $e_{\text{Si}}$  and  $e$  refer to electron candidates with and without energy deposits in the silicon microstrip detector.

	$n_{\text{obs}}$	$n_{\text{pred}}$	$n_{\ell\ell\gamma}$	$n_{WV}$	$n_{ZZ}$	$n_{\text{fake}}$
$e_{\text{Si}}e_{\text{Si}}$	11	$6.3 \pm 1.0$	3.2	1.4	0.4	1.3
$ee$	3	$1.3 \pm 0.3$	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.2
$e_{\text{Si}}e$	9	$9.1 \pm 1.8$	6.4	1.6	0.1	1.0
$e_{\text{Si}}\mu$	11	$6.8 \pm 0.8$	0.8	2.8	1.1	2.1
$e\mu$	5	$6.4 \pm 1.2$	3.4	1.9	0.2	0.9
$\mu\mu$	5	$3.2 \pm 0.3$	0.1	1.4	0.8	0.8
Total	44	$33.2 \pm 4.7$	14.9	9.3	2.5	6.4

New physics scenarios that lead to like-sign dilepton events, such as the ones mentioned in the introduction to this Letter, often have a  $WZ$ -like topology. As such, SM  $WZ$  production provides a reference point for the sensitivity of this analysis. The product of geometric acceptance, kinematic acceptance, and like-sign dilepton identification efficiencies ( $\mathcal{A}_{\text{geo}} \times \mathcal{A}_{\text{kin}} \times \epsilon$ ) for leptonic decays for on-shell SM  $WZ$  production, given as a proxy for the sensitivity of this analysis, is 8.0%.

In Table I, we present the expected and observed number of events with two same-charge leptons in all different combinations of leptons considered. Combining all channels, we predict  $33.2 \pm 4.7$  events and observe 44. The probability that 33.2 events with an uncertainty of 4.7 events fluctuate to 44 or more is 9%. Figure 1 shows the

TABLE II. Event counts with additional selection criteria for a SUSY-like physics scenario. The table headings are explained in the caption to Table I.

	$n_{\text{obs}}$	$n_{\text{pred}}$	$n_{\ell\ell\gamma}$	$n_{WV}$	$n_{ZZ}$	$n_{\text{fake}}$
$e_{\text{Si}}e_{\text{Si}}$	1	$1.3 \pm 0.3$	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.4
$ee$	1	$0.1 \pm 0.1$	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
$e_{\text{Si}}e$	2	$1.5 \pm 0.3$	0.1	1.2	0.0	0.2
$e_{\text{Si}}\mu$	4	$1.7 \pm 0.2$	0.0	1.0	0.1	0.7
$e\mu$	4	$2.3 \pm 0.5$	0.6	1.4	0.0	0.2
$\mu\mu$	1	$0.9 \pm 0.1$	0.0	0.5	0.1	0.4
Total	13	$7.8 \pm 1.1$	1.1	4.7	0.2	1.8

comparison between the predicted and observed events for several kinematic distributions of interest.

In Table II, we present the expected and observed number of events after imposing two additional requirements aimed at increasing the signal sensitivity for a supersymmetry (SUSY)-like physics scenario where the stable, neutral, and lightest supersymmetric particle escapes detection. We require a large transverse momentum imbalance ( $\cancel{E}_T > 15$  GeV) and reject events in which the invariant mass of one of our selected leptons and another lepton of the same flavor and opposite charge are consistent with a  $Z$  boson ( $66 < m_{\ell^+\ell^-} < 116$  GeV/ $c^2$ ). We predict  $7.8 \pm 1.1$  events and observe 13. The probability that 7.8 events with an uncertainty of 1.1 events fluctuate to 13 or more is 7%. The value of  $\mathcal{A}_{\text{geo}} \times \mathcal{A}_{\text{kin}} \times \epsilon$  for  $WZ$  events, as described above but adding a  $\cancel{E}_T > 15$  GeV requirement, is 7%.

In conclusion, we have performed a search for events with two leptons of the same electric charge using the CDF

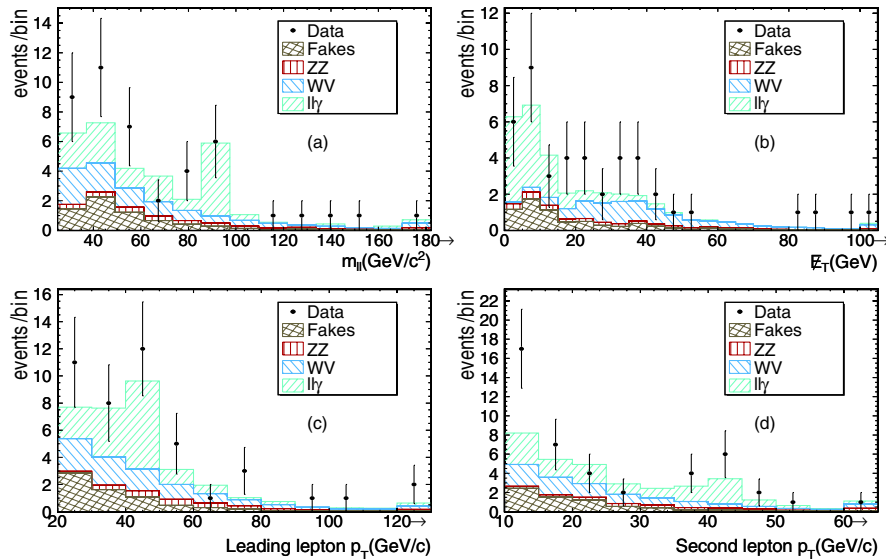


FIG. 1 (color online). Invariant mass distribution  $m_{\ell\ell}$  of the selected leptons (a),  $\cancel{E}_T$  (b), leading (c), and subleading (d) lepton transverse momentum in data and simulation. The rightmost bins are overflow bins. The peak at  $m_{\ell\ell} \approx 90$  GeV is mostly due to Drell-Yan di-electron production with hard radiation off one electron, followed by an asymmetric conversion.

Run II data. We observe a slight excess in the number of predicted events in almost all lepton categories. However, the kinematic distributions do not show any anomalous deviation from expectations in any particular region of parameter space. Large future data sets expected at the Tevatron will reveal whether this observed slight excess persists.

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<sup>a</sup>Visiting scientist from University of Athens, 157 84 Athens, Greece.

<sup>b</sup>Visiting scientist from University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1TL, United Kingdom.

<sup>c</sup>Visiting scientist from Universite Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), B-1050 Brussels, Belgium.

<sup>d</sup>Visiting scientist from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA.

<sup>e</sup>Visiting scientist from University of Cyprus, Nicosia CY-1678, Cyprus.

<sup>f</sup>Visiting scientist from University of Dublin, Dublin 4, Ireland.

<sup>g</sup>Visiting scientist from University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH9 3JZ, United Kingdom.

<sup>h</sup>Visiting scientist from University of Heidelberg, D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany.

<sup>i</sup>Visiting scientist from University of Iberoamericana, Mexico D.F., Mexico.

<sup>j</sup>Visiting scientist from University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, United Kingdom.

<sup>k</sup>Visiting scientist from Nagasaki Institute of Applied Science, Nagasaki, Japan.

<sup>l</sup>Visiting scientist from Universidad de Oviedo, E-33007 Oviedo, Spain.

<sup>m</sup>Visiting scientist from Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, E1 4NS, United Kingdom.

<sup>n</sup>Visiting scientist from Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409, USA.

<sup>o</sup>Visiting scientist from Instituto de Fisica Corpuscular (IFIC), 46071 Valencia, Spain.

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