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Studies of rare beauty and charm decays with the CMS experiment

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The rare decays $B_s(B^0) \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$, $B^0 \rightarrow K^*\mu^+\mu^-$ and $D^0 \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ are excellent tests of the flavor sector of the Standard Model and are sensitive to new physics. We report on studies of these decays performed with the CMS experiment using pp collisions data collected in 2011 at a centre-of-mass energy of 7 TeV.

We present the first observation of the excited B baryon Ξ_b^* in the strong decays to Ξ_b^- and a charged pion, performed with the CMS experiment at $\sqrt{s}=7$ TeV. In addition, we present measurements of B hadron lifetimes.

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