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Higgs rare decays at ATLAS and CMS

2022



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On behalf of the ATLAS and CMS collaborations



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Motivation for Higgs rare decay searches in SM



- Decade since the start of the LHC and Higgs discovery observed Higgs decay modes cover ~90% of total width
- Rare decays potentially affected by NP beyond the SM
- Crucial to look for yet unseen and experimentally

challenging rare decay modes to have a complete

characterization of the Higgs boson physics sector

- LHC Run 2 data: increase in Higgs prod. rate & lumi
- ATLAS and CMS have advanced analysis techniques





DOWNS OWNED

ATLAS: Phys. Lett. B 801 (2020) 135148, CMS: HIG-21-015

- Probe of Higgs boson couplings to first generation fermions: experimentally very challenging
- Small BR(H->ee): 5 x 10⁻⁹, enhanced in BSM scenarios (two Higgs doublets, dim 10 operators)
- At CMS: analysis of ggH & VBF
- Main bkg: DY events (& ttbar)
- $p_T > (35)25$ GeV lead(sublead) and 110 GeV < $m_{ee} < 150$ GeV
- BDT classifier-> ev. categories:
 2 VBF & 4 ggH categories



Higgs decay to pair of electrons: Analysis & Results

CMS

ATLAS: Phys. Lett. B 801 (2020) 135148, CMS: HIG-21-015

- Observed (expected) limits from fit to m_{ee} : B(H->ee) < 3.0 x 10⁻⁴ (3.0 x 10⁻⁴) at 95% CL
- UL on Higgs coupling modifier: $|\kappa_e| < 240$



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• ATLAS searched for H->ee (also for H->eµ), obs(exp) limits:

 $BR(H->ee) < 3.6 \times 10^{-4} (3.5 \times 10^{-4}), BR(H->e\mu) < 6.1 \times 10^{-5} (5.8 \times 10^{-5})$

Higgs boson decay to pair of muons: Overview



ATLAS: PLB 812 (2021) 135980, CMS: JHEP 01 (2021) 14

- The most experimentally sensitive probe of Higgs boson interactions with the 2nd generation fermions at the LHC
- BR (H-> $\mu\mu$) = 2.18 x 10⁻⁴ for Higgs boson mass of 125 GeV
- Signal is a narrow resonance in the dimuon invariant mass spectrum on top of falling background: Drell-Yan, ttbar, etc.
- Multivariate analysis techniques applied, targeting main Higgs production modes

Number of categories	ggH	VBF	VH	ttH
ATLAS	12	4	3	1
CMS	5	DNN	5	5



Data/Bkg.

Events

10⁵

10

10³



ATLAS: PLB 812 (2021) 135980, CMS: JHEP 01 (2021) 14

137 fb⁻¹ (13 TeV)



ATLAS: Signal significance: $2.0(1.7)\sigma$ obs(exp)

 $\mu = 1.2 \pm 0.6(\text{stat})_{-0.1} + 0.2(\text{syst})$



CMS: Signal significance: $3.0(2.5)\sigma$ obs(exp)

 $\mu = 1.19_{-0.39}^{+0.40}(\text{stat})_{-0.1}^{+0.2}(\text{syst})$

First evidence of Higgs couplings to muons

_AS



H boson decay to a pair of muons: Event Display



ATLAS: PLB 812 (2021) 135980, CMS: JHEP 01 (2021) 14



Higgs boson decay to Z boson and photon: CMS ATLAS: Phys. Lett. B 809 (2020) 135754, CMS: arXiv:2204.12945, Submitted to JHEP 138 fb⁻¹ (13 TeV)

CMS

CMS: H -> Z(ee, $\mu\mu$) γ search with dilepton mass > 50 GeV

m_{I⁺Γγ} (GeV)



Higgs boson decay to Z boson and photon: ATLAS



ATLAS: Phys. Lett. B 809 (2020) 135754, CMS: arXiv:2204.12945, Submitted to JHEP

- ATLAS: Z boson invariant mass required to be in [50, 101] GeV and after the FSR and Z boson kinematic fit: 81 GeV < m_z < 101 GeV
- The invariant mass of final state particle: $105 < m_{Z\gamma} < 160 \text{ GeV}$





- 6 event categories, based on the lepton flavour and event kinematics
- BDT trained to separate the VBF from other Higgs production modes used to define VBF-enriched category of events with at least two jets
- Significance: 2.2(1.2)σ obs(exp); UL on (σ x B)@95% CL: 3.6 x SM
- Best fit: $\mu = 2.0_{-0.9}^{+1.0}$ (tot.), expected: 1.0 ± 0.8 (stat.) ± 0.3 (syst.)



H -> Zγ: Event Display



ATLAS: Phys. Lett. B 809 (2020) 135754, CMS: arXiv:2204.12945, Submitted to JHEP



SATLAS Higgs boson decay to low mass dilepton and photon







H -> Z + J/ ψ (and H/Z -> J/ ψ J/ ψ or YY)

CMS: HIG-20-008



- Higgs decay into Z boson and J/ ψ or ψ (2S) in four lepton final state
 - \bigcirc Z -> e⁺e⁻ or μ⁺μ⁻, J/ψ -> μ⁺μ⁻ and ψ(2S) -> J/ψ π π
- Also Higgs decays to pairs of J/ ψ or Y(1s) or Y(nS) (n=1,2,3) in 4 μ
- And studies of a Z boson decay to J/ψ pair and Y(1S) or Y(nS) pairs

Process	Observed	Expected		
	Longitudinal	Longitudinal	Unpolarized	Transversal
$\mathcal{B}(\mathrm{H} \to \mathrm{ZJ}/\psi)$	$1.9 imes 10^{-3}$	$(2.6^{+1.1}_{-0.7}) imes 10^{-3}$	$2.4 imes 10^{-3}$	$2.8 imes 10^{-3}$
$\mathcal{B}(\mathrm{H} ightarrow \mathrm{Z}\psi(\mathrm{2S}))$	$6.6 imes10^{-3}$	$(7.1^{+2.8}_{-2.0}) imes 10^{-3}$	$8.3 imes 10^{-3}$	$9.4 imes10^{-3}$
${\cal B}({ m H} ightarrow { m J}/\psi { m J}/\psi)$	$3.8 imes10^{-4}$	$(4.6^{+2.0}_{-0.6}) imes 10^{-4}$	$4.7 imes10^{-4}$	$5.2 imes10^{-4}$
$\mathcal{B}(\mathrm{H} ightarrow \psi(\mathrm{2S})\mathrm{J}/\psi)$	$2.1 imes10^{-3}$	$(1.4^{+0.6}_{-0.4}) imes 10^{-3}$	$2.6 imes 10^{-3}$	$2.9 imes10^{-3}$
$\mathcal{B}(\mathrm{H} ightarrow \psi(\mathrm{2S})\psi(\mathrm{2S}))$	$3.0 imes10^{-3}$	$(3.3^{+1.5}_{-0.9}) imes 10^{-3}$	$3.6 imes 10^{-3}$	$4.7 imes10^{-3}$
$\mathcal{B}(\mathrm{H} \to \mathrm{Y}(nS)\mathrm{Y}(mS))$	$3.5 imes10^{-4}$	$(3.6^{+0.2}_{-0.3}) imes 10^{-4}$	$4.3 imes10^{-4}$	$4.6 imes10^{-4}$
$\mathcal{B}(\mathrm{H} \to \mathrm{Y}(1S)\mathrm{Y}(1S))$	$1.7 imes10^{-3}$	$(1.7^{+0.1}_{-0.1}) imes 10^{-3}$	$2.0 imes 10^{-3}$	$2.2 imes 10^{-3}$
Zboson channels				
$\mathcal{B}(Z \to J/\psi J/\psi)$	$10.8 imes 10^{-7}$	$(9.5^{+3.8}_{-2.6}) imes 10^{-7}$	13.9×10^{-7}	16.0×10^{-7}
$\mathcal{B}(Z \to Y(nS)Y(mS))$	$3.9 imes10^{-7}$	$(4.0^{+0.3}_{-0.3}) imes10^{-7}$	$4.9 imes10^{-7}$	$5.6 imes10^{-7}$
$\mathcal{B}(Z \to Y(1S)Y(1S))$	$1.8 imes10^{-6}$	$(1.8^{+0.1}_{-0.0}) imes10^{-6}$	2.2×10^{-6}	$2.4 imes 10^{-6}$



- Main bkg: a Z boson plus a genuine or misID meson
- No excess of Higgs (Z) boson in any of the channels
- Obs(exp) upper limits set for the Higgs and Z decays

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SATLAS Higgs boson decay to pair of charm quarks: Overview

ATLAS: arXiv:2201.11428 Submitted to EPJC, CMS: CMS-PAS-HIG-21-008

- Small BR: 2.89%, large QCD bkg., c-tag, challenge to measure at LHC
- Two ev. topologies: "merged-jet" (p_T(H) > 300 GeV) & "resolved-jet"
- CMS: c jet tagger w/ DNN ParticleNet -> x3 improval of bkg rejection
- For both ATLAS and CMS, the event categories with 0, 1 or 2 leptons



- ATLAS uses two discriminants from multivariate algorithms to tag either b- or c-hadrons
- Eff. to tag c-jets in ttbar MC events is 27% and b- and light jet mis-ID rate is 8% and 16%

SATLAS Higgs boson decay to pair of charm quarks: Analysis

CMS, even under

ATLAS: arXiv:2201.11428 Submitted to EPJC, CMS: CMS-PAS-HIG-21-008

- ATLAS: categorized by V p_T, number of (c-tag) jets
- The m_{cc} used in a likelihood fit to extract the signal
- Analysis strategy validated w/ dibosons: 2.6(2.2)σ
 for VZ (-> cc) and the 3.8(4.6)σ for the VW (-> cq)



Represents an evidencefor the VW -> cq decay



- CMS: the *m*(H_{cand}) variable fitted in the merged-jet analysis and a BDT discriminant in the resolved-jet analysis category
- VZ (Z->cc): 4.4(4.7)σ obs(exp) (@merged), 3.1(3.3)σ (@resolved), 5.7(5.9)σ (comb.): First observation of Z->cc at hadron collider!

SATLAS Higgs boson decay to a pair of charm quarks: Results

ATLAS: arXiv:2201.11428 Submitted to EPJC, CMS: CMS-PAS-HIG-21-008

- ATLAS best limit measured at 26 x SM --> this is
 5x improvement over the previous ATLAS result
- Combined VH -> cc with the VH -> bb analysis -> |kc/kb| to be < 4.5(HIGG-2021-12)





• CMS best limit is 7.7 x SM; and most stringent limit set on $1.1 < |\kappa_c| < 5.5$ the expected upper limit: $|\kappa c| < 3.4$



Candidate event for the process ZH -> µµcc̄



ATLAS: arXiv:2201.11428 Submitted to EPJC, CMS: CMS-PAS-HIG-21-008





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Summary and Outlook





BACKUP SLIDES



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Simulation

model

Fraction of events / 0.5 GeV

0.14

0.12

0.1

0.08

0.06

0.04

0.02

Higgs decay to pair of electrons



110 115

115



Higgs boson decay to pair of muons

ATLAS: PLB 812 (2021) 135980, CMS: JHEP 01 (2021) 14





Higgs boson decay to pair of muons

ATLAS: PLB 812 (2021) 135980, CMS: JHEP 01 (2021) 14





Higgs boson decay to a Z boson and photon



ATLAS: Phys. Lett. B 809 (2020) 135754, CMS: arXiv:2204.12945, Submitted to JHEP



SATLAS Higgs boson decay to low mass dilepton and photon



ATLAS: Phys. Lett. B 819 (2021) 136412





Higgs boson decay to a pair of charm quarks

ATLAS: arXiv:2201.11428 Submitted to EPJC, CMS: CMS-PAS-HIG-21-008



• ATLAS: the value of (|kc/kb| <) 4.5 is less then than the ratio of the *b*- and *c*-quark masses, which constrains the coupling of the Higgs to the c-quark to be weaker than the coupling of the Higgs boson to the b quark at 95% CL

EXTERIMENT Higgs boson decay to pair of charm quarks: Analysis

ATLAS: arXiv:2201.11428 Submitted to EPJC, CMS: CMS-PAS-HIG-21-008









ATLAS

 κ_{b}

Higgs boson decay to a Z boson and ρ or φ meson





- Direct production suppressed in SM by factor of m_q^2/m_H^2 relative to indirect, but can be enhanced in BSM models
- Main bkg: Drell-Yan Z prod. w/ genuine or mis-ID meson





 Small angular separation(ΔR) between two meson tracks, leading meson track p_T > 10 GeV reduce the background

Polarization state	Effect on yield			
	μμππ	μμΚΚ	$ee\pi\pi$	eeKK
Longitudinally polarized	+16%	+17%	+23%	+21%
Transversely polarized	-8%	-9%	-11%	-11%

- UL on B(H->Zρ) in range 1.04-1.31% or 740-940 x SM exp
- UL on B(H->Ζφ) in range 0.31-0.40% or 730-950 x SM exp



CMS: JHEP11 (2020) 039

