



SPEAKER: Jan Steggemann

TITLE: **Observation of the SM Higgs boson decaying to a pair of τ leptons with the CMS detector**

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ABSTRACT

A search for the standard model Higgs boson decaying into a pair of τ leptons is performed using events recorded in proton-proton collisions by the CMS experiment at the LHC in 2016. The data set corresponds to an integrated luminosity of 35.9 fb^{-1} at a center-of-mass energy of 13 TeV. The τ leptons decay semi-hadronically, or leptonically to an electron or a muon, and the four decay channels with the largest branching fractions are considered. An excess of events is observed over the expected background prediction with a significance of 4.9 standard deviations for a Higgs boson mass $m_H = 125 \text{ GeV}$, to be compared to an expected significance of 4.7 standard deviations. The best fit of the product of the observed $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$ signal cross section and branching fraction for $m_H = 125 \text{ GeV}$ is $1.09^{+0.27}_{-0.26}$ times the standard model expectation. The combination with the search for decays of the Higgs boson into pairs of τ leptons performed with data collected by the CMS experiment at the LHC at center-of-mass energies of 7 and 8 TeV leads to an observed significance in excess of 5 standard deviations.