Measurement of cross sections and properties of the Higgs boson in decays to four leptons using the ATLAS detector

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$H \to Z Z^* \to 4 \ell$ channel



Higgs boson decay under consideration

• $H \to ZZ^* \to \ell^+ \ell^- \ell'^+ \ell'^- \ (\ell, \ell' = e, \mu).$ • $\sigma(pp \to H \to ZZ^* \to 4\ell) = 1.33 \text{ pb}.$

Experimental signature

- Two pairs of oppositely charged isolated electrons or muons from a common vertex.
- Mass of one lepton pair close to m_Z .

Measurement of the Higgs boson mass



- Most precise Higgs boson mass measurement from $H \to 4\ell$ channel.
- Small error on m_H totally dominated thanks to excellent lepton energy and momentum calibration.

Quantities for the study of Higgs boson properties

Higgs boson production modes



Transverse momentum of the Higgs boson $p_{\mathrm{T},4\ell}$

- Test perturbative QCD calculations like ISR in ggF.
- Sensitivity to Langrangian structure of the Higgs boson interactions.

Number of jets in the final state N_{jets} provide sensitivity to

- theoretical modelling of gluon emission,
- the fractions of the different production modes.

Analysis based on LHC run-II data from 2015-2017: (ATLAS-CONF-2018-018) $\int \mathcal{L}dt$ =79.8 fb⁻¹, \sqrt{s} =13 TeV.

Number of observed events grouped by final state

Final	Signal	ZZ^*	Other	Total	Observed
state		background	backgrounds	expected	
4μ	40.5 ± 1.7	19.0 ± 1.1	1.71 ± 0.10	61.2 ± 2.0	64
$2e2\mu$	28.2 ± 1.2	13.3 ± 0.8	1.38 ± 0.10	42.8 ± 1.4	64
$2\mu 2e$	22.1 ± 1.4	9.2 ± 0.9	2.99 ± 0.09	34.3 ± 1.7	39
4e	21.1 ± 1.4	8.6 ± 0.8	2.90 ± 0.09	32.5 ± 1.6	28
Total	112 ± 5	50 ± 4	8.96 ± 0.12	171 ± 6	195



- Good agreement between the number of expected and observed events.
- Overall 14% excess of observed events due to an upward fluctuations of $H \rightarrow 2e2\mu$ events.

Fiducial cross sections

Cross section [fb]	Data ((± (stat.)	± (syst.))	Standard Model prediction
$\sigma_{4\mu}$	0.97	±0.17	±0.05	0.886 ± 0.039
σ_{4e}	0.61	± 0.21	±0.07	0.886 ± 0.039
$\sigma_{2\mu 2e}$	0.88	±0.21	± 0.08	0.786 ± 0.035
$\sigma_{2e2\mu}$	1.37	±0.22	±0.07	0.786 ± 0.035
$\sigma_{ m tot}$ [pb]	67.2	±6.8	±4.1	55.7 ± 2.5



- Good agreement between the number of expected and observed events.
- Overall 14% excess of observed events due to an upward fluctuations of $H \rightarrow 2e2\mu$ events.
- Dominant systematic uncertainty from 3% luminosity and ~4-8% uncertainties from pile-up (mainly affecting lepton isolation).

Differential fiducial cross sections

Transverse Higgs boson momentum



No statistically significant deviations of the differential distribution from the Standard Model predictions!

Event categories



- Cross sections measured in selected particle-level production bins (simplified template cross section framework).
- Bins are chosen to minimized theoretical uncertainty of the measurement and provide sensitivity to BSM effects.

Purities of the event categories at reconstruction level



- Event categories not purely from a given production mode, e.g. only \sim 30% of the events in the VBF enriched category from VBF events, dominant contribution from ggF events.
- ⇒ Boosted decision trees used to improve the discrimination between the categories.

Reconstructed event category	BDT discriminant	Input variables
$0j$ - $p_{\rm T}^{4\ell}$ -Low	$\mathrm{BDT}_{\mathrm{ggF}}$	$p_{ m T}^{4\ell},\eta_{4\ell},D_{ZZ^*}$
$1j$ - $p_{\rm T}^{4\ell}$ -Low	$\mathrm{BDT}_{\mathrm{VBF}_{\mathrm{c}}}^{1j - p_{\mathrm{T}}^{4\ell} - \mathrm{Low}}$	$p_{\mathrm{T}}^{j}, \eta_{j}, \Delta R(j, 4\ell)$
$1j$ - $p_{\rm T}^{4\ell}$ -Med	$\mathrm{BDT}_{\mathrm{VBF}}^{1j - p_{\mathrm{T}}^{4\ell} - \mathrm{Med}}$	$p_{\mathrm{T}}^{j}, \eta_{j}, \Delta R(j, 4\ell)$
VBF-enriched- $p_{\rm T}^j$ -Low	$\mathrm{BDT}_{\mathrm{VBF}}$	$m_{jj}, \Delta \eta_{jj}, p_{\rm T}^{j1}, p_{\rm T}^{j2}, \eta_{4\ell}^*, \Delta R_{jZ}^{\min}, p_{\rm T}^{4\ell j j}$
VH-Had-enriched	$\mathrm{BDT}_{VH\text{-}\mathrm{Had}}$	$m_{jj}, \Delta \eta_{jj}, p_{\rm T}^{j1}, p_{\rm T}^{j2}, \eta_{4\ell}^*, \Delta R_{jZ}^{\rm min}, \eta_{j1}$
<i>ttH</i> -Had-enriched	BDT ++ H Had	$m_{jj}, \Delta \eta_{jj}, \Delta R_{jZ}^{\min}, \Delta R(j, 4\ell), \eta_{4\ell}^*,$
		$E_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}}, p_{\mathrm{T}}^{jj}, N_{\mathrm{jets}}, N_{b-\mathrm{jets}}, H_{\mathrm{T}}, \mathcal{M}_{sig}$

Examples of distributions of BDT scores

VBF



VH→jjH



ttH



Systematic uncertainties on the cross sections

	Experimental uncertainties [%]				Theory uncertainties [%]				
Measurement	Lum.	$e, \mu,$	Jets, flavour	Reducible	ZZ^*			Signal	
[-0.5ex]		pile-up	tagging	backgr.	backgr.	PDF	QCD scale	Parton Shower	Composition
Fiducial cross section									
	2.8	4.3	< 0.1	0.3	1.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.1
Per decay channel fiducial cross sections									
4μ	2.8	3.9	< 0.1	0.3	1.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.2
4e	2.8	9.0	< 0.1	1.0	1.6	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.1
$2\mu 2e$	2.7	8.6	< 0.1	0.9	1.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.1
$2e2\mu$	2.8	3.6	< 0.1	0.4	1.8	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.2
Stage-0 production bin cross sections									
ggF	2.9	3.9	1.3	0.7	2.3	0.4	2.1	0.7	-
VBF	1.7	1.5	10.5	0.5	2.3	2.3	9.5	5.1	-
VH	2.0	1.7	7.8	1.8	5.6	2.1	14.9	3.1	-
ttH	2.5	1.9	3.9	1.5	1.9	0.3	8.8	9.6	-

Dominant experimental uncertainties

- Luminsosity uncertainty $\sim 3\%$.
- Uncertainties from pile-up (mainly affecting lepton isolation) \sim 4-8%.
- ${\circ}$ Jet reconstruction and flavour tagging ${\sim}5\text{--}10\%$ for VBF, VH, ttH.

Dominant theoretical uncertainties

- ZZ^* cross section ~2%.
- QCD scale $\sim 10\%$ for VBF, VH, ttH.

Measured production cross sections



- Excellent agreement of the measured cross sections for ggF and VH production.
- Almost 3 times larger measured VBF cross section than predicted, but only 1.8σ deviation.
- No observed ttH event in the 4ℓ final state, but 95% CL limits in agreement with the SM prediction.



- Excellent agreement of the measured cross sections in all ggF and VH categories.
- Deviation of the measured VBF cross sections from the SM prediction
 - at 1.6 σ level for the low jet $p_{\rm T}$ category,
 - <1 σ level for the high jet $p_{\rm T}$ category.

No statistically significant deviations from the Standard Model predictions!

Likelihood contours

ggF vs VBF

VBF vs VH



Agreement between the measured and predicted cross sections at a level of ${<}2\sigma$ due to the observed excess of VBF events.

- ${\circ}$ On-shell Higgs boson production: 118 GeV< $m_{4\ell}$ <129 GeV.
- Off-shell Higgs boson production: 220 GeV< $m_{4\ell}$ <2000 GeV.

Motivation for studying off-shell production

•
$$\mu_{\text{off-shell}} = \frac{\sigma_{\text{off-shell}}^{gg \to H^* \to ZZ}}{\sigma_{\text{off-shell},\text{SM}}^{gg \to H^* \to ZZ}} = \kappa_{g,\text{off-shell}}^2 \cdot \kappa_{Z,\text{off-shell}}^2$$
 $\mu_{\text{on-shell}} = \frac{\sigma_{\text{on-shell}}^{gg \to H \to ZZ}}{\sigma_{\text{on-shell},\text{SM}}^{gg \to H \to ZZ}} = \frac{\kappa_{g,\text{on-shell}}^2 \cdot \kappa_{Z,\text{on-shell}}^2}{\Gamma_H / \Gamma_H^{\text{SM}}}$

$$\Rightarrow$$
 If $\kappa_{\text{off-shell}} = \kappa_{\text{on-shell}}$ then

$$\frac{\mu_{\text{on-shell}}}{\mu_{\text{off-shell}}} = \frac{\Gamma_H}{\Gamma_H^{\text{SM}}}.$$

⇒ Provides sensitivity to Γ_H which is only 4.2 MeV in the SM and inaccessible through the width of the Higgs peak in the $m_{4\ell}$ distribution.

Limits on the Higgs boson's width Γ_H

NEW!



- No significant excess over the ZZ and WZ background.
- \Rightarrow 95% CL limits on signal strength and Γ_H :

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• \mu_{\rm off-shell} <3.8 (3.4 expected),
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• $\Gamma_H < 14.4 \text{ MeV} (15.2 \text{ MeV expected}).$

- The properties of the Higgs boson have been studied with $H \to ZZ^* \to 4\ell$ events of the run-II ATLAS data.
- Accurate measurement of the Higgs boson mass with $H \rightarrow 4\ell$ events with negligible systematic error: $m_H = (124.71 \pm 0.30)$ GeV.
- No deviations from the Standard Model have been found in the differential cross sections $d\sigma/dp_{{\rm T},4\ell}$ and $d\sigma/dN_{jets}$.
- The measured cross sections for the dominant Higgs boson production cross section are found to be in agreement with the Standard Model prediction at a level of better than 2σ . Maximum deviation: 1.9σ excess of VBF events.
- \Rightarrow Excellent overall agreement with the Standard Model predictions.
 - Constraint from off-shell Higgs boson production: $\Gamma_H < 14.4$ MeV.