Measurements of gluon fusion and vector-boson-fusion production of the Higgs boson in $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow ev\mu v$ decays using 13 TeV *pp* collisions with the ATLAS detector

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Higgs Hunting 2021







Analysis Overview

Analysis Scope: ATLAS-CONF-2021-014

- ggF and VBF production of Higgs bosons in the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow e\nu\mu\nu$ decay channel.
- Aim to measure cross-sections times branching fractions ($\sigma^{obs} \cdot BR_{H \to WW^*}$) and signal strengths ($\mu = \sigma^{obs} / \sigma^{SM}$)

Full Run-2 Result

- Data for this result comes from pp collisions at \sqrt{s} = 13 TeV at CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC).
 - Collected between 2015-2018 ("Run 2") with the ATLAS detector.
- This analysis makes several changes with respect to the previous (36 fb⁻¹) ATLAS measurement [1]:
 - ✓ Addition of ggF \ge 2-jet channel
 - ✓ Use of deep neural network (DNN) in VBF channel
 - ✓ Measurement of cross-sections in kinematic bins ("STXS").

1. arXiv: 1808.09054 [hep-ex]

Analysis Strategy

Common Preselection:

- Cuts target features of $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow e\nu\mu\nu$ decay and reduce some common backgrounds:
 - \checkmark Single-lepton and dilepton triggers used
 - ✓ 2 different-flavour, opposite-charge leptons
 - ✓ $p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{lead}}$ > 22 GeV, $p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{sublead}}$ > 15 GeV
 - ✓ $m_{ll} > 10~{\rm GeV}$
 - ✓ $p_{\rm T}^{\rm miss}$ > 20 GeV (ggF channels only)

Defining Analysis Channels:

- Channels split by number of jets with $p_{\rm T} > 30$ GeV after preselection:
 - \succ N_{jets} = 0 and N_{jets} = 1 channels to target ggF
 - \succ N_{jets} \geq 2 channels to target **ggF** and VBF
- Motivated by differing background compositions in each region.
- Remaining cuts are targeted to each analysis category.

 $N_{\rm jet}$

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Background rejection

$$\checkmark \begin{array}{l} N_{b-jet}^{p_{\mathrm{T}} > 20 \; \mathrm{GeV}} = 0 \\ \checkmark \begin{array}{l} m_{\tau\tau} < m_{Z} - 25 \; \mathrm{GeV} \end{array} \end{array}$$

 $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow e\nu\mu\nu$ topology

- ✓ $m_{ll} < 55 \text{ GeV}$
- $\checkmark \Delta \phi_{ll} < 1.8$
- ✓ $|m_{jj} 85| \le 15$ GeV or $\Delta y_{jj} > 1.2$
- ✓ Orthogonality with VBF analysis (fail central jet veto or outside lepton veto)

Control regions for top, qqWW, Z/γ^* backgrounds.

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Two signal regions split at m_{ll} = 30 GeV.
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Background rejection

 $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow e\nu\mu\nu$ topology

- ✓ Central jet veto
- ✓ Outside lepton veto
- ✓ m_{jj} > 120 GeV (Orthogonality with VH analysis)

Control regions for top, Z/γ^* backgrounds.

Events categorized by DNN score based on 15 variables: $\Delta y_{jj}, m_{jj}, \eta_{\ell}^{\text{centrality}}, m_{\ell 1 j 1}, m_{\ell 1 j 2}, m_{\ell 2 j 1}, m_{\ell 2 j 2}, \\ p_{\text{T}}^{\text{jet}_1}, p_{\text{T}}^{\text{jet}_2}, p_{\text{T}}^{\text{jet}_3}, \Delta \phi_{\ell \ell}, m_{\ell \ell}, m_{\text{T}}, p_{\text{T}}^{\text{tot}}, \text{MET sig}$

Results: Inclusive ggF and VBF Cross-Sections

- Final discriminant: $m_{\rm T}$ (ggF analyses) or DNN output (VBF analysis).
- Extract signal strengths using a **profile likelihood fit** to data in the signal and control regions.

Simultaneous measurement of ggF and VBF signal strengths shows good consistency with the SM:

Results: Inclusive ggF and VBF Cross-Sections

Also measure cross-sections times branching fractions for both production modes:

Simplified Template Cross-Sections

- Results are extended with measurement of cross-sections in kinematic bins prescribed by the Simplified Template Cross-Section (STXS) framework.
- Cross-section measured are defined by STXS Stage 1.2 splitting, with bins merged according to analysis sensitivity.

ggH production:

- Measure 6 POIs
- ➤ Targeted by 0, 1 and ≥ 2-jet ggF signal regions further split by $p_{\rm T}^{\rm H}$.

EW qqH production:

- Measure 5 POIs
- ➤ Targeted by ≥ 2-jet VBF signal region split by m_{jj} , p_T^H .

Results: Simplified Template Cross-Sections

Ratio of measured cross-section to SM prediction shown for all 11 cross-sections:

Results are **compatible with the SM**.

Signal theory uncertainties no longer dominate.

Most analysis categories are statistically-limited, with some ggH modes affected predominantly by background theory uncertainties.

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Conclusions

- This measurement of inclusive VBF and ggF H → WW* cross-sections is the most precise to-date, and so far shows consistency with the SM.
- Measurements in STXS bins also agree with the SM, and (for EW qqH) have a precision competitive with the latest combination of all Higgs results measured with the ATLAS detector [ATLAS-CONF-2020-027].
- Future measurements will benefit from a larger dataset and improving understanding of measurement uncertainties to further test the limits of the SM.

Backgrounds

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Simplified Template Cross-Sections

✓ Largest contribution to each reconstructed signal region come from the truth category it targets.

Selections

 $m_{\mathrm{T}} = \sqrt{\left(E_{\mathrm{T}}^{\ell\ell} + E_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}}\right)^{2} - \left|\boldsymbol{p}_{\mathrm{T}}^{\ell\ell} + \boldsymbol{E}_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}}\right|^{2}}$

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Selections

Results

Category	WW	$t\bar{t}/Wt$	Z/γ^*
$N_{\text{jet},(p_{\text{T}}>30 \text{ GeV})} = 0 \text{ ggF}$	$1.03^{+0.07}_{-0.07}$	$0.96^{+0.23}_{-0.18}$	$0.96\substack{+0.07 \\ -0.06}$
$N_{\text{jet},(p_{\text{T}}>30 \text{ GeV})} = 1 \text{ ggF}$	$0.82\substack{+0.15 \\ -0.14}$	$1.07\substack{+0.19 \\ -0.16}$	$0.97\substack{+0.10 \\ -0.09}$
$N_{\text{jet},(p_{\text{T}}>30 \text{ GeV})} \ge 2 \text{ ggF}$	$0.80\substack{+0.35 \\ -0.34}$	$0.94^{+0.23}_{-0.18}$	$0.97\substack{+0.18 \\ -0.16}$
$N_{\text{jet},(p_{\text{T}}>30 \text{ GeV})} \ge 2 \text{ VBF}$	_	$1.00\substack{+0.37 \\ -0.22}$	$0.96\substack{+0.25\\-0.20}$