## **Measurements of Higgs Boson Properties in the H→WW Channel in CMS**

Lorenzo Viliani - INFN of Florence (Italy)

CIEMAT Seminar May 26th, 2022





## **10 years after the Higgs boson discovery…**





## **… what have we learned?**



#### **From discovery to precision**







May 26, 2022 Lorenzo Viliani (INFN) - CIEMAT seminar

#### In 10 years the paradigm has changed…

2012

**Today** 

From searching for a new particle to precision measurements!

## **But let's start from the beginning…**

#### **The role of the Higgs boson in the Standard Model**



- The interaction of the Higgs boson with the particles provides the a mass.
- The Higgs boson couplings with bosons and fermions are proportional to their mass.



Courtesy of R. Seidita (all cartoon diagrams)





#### **What are the needed ingredients to produce the Higgs boson?**



## A big machine! The CERN Large Hadron Collider!



- Collides protons at  $\sqrt{s}$  = 13 TeV (soon 13.6) TeV), but also heavy ions.
- Reaches nominal instantaneous luminosities of  $1x10^{34}$  fb<sup>-1</sup>.
- 4 interaction points, where 4 experiments are placed:
	- ALICE
	- **ATLAS**
	- CMS
	- LHCb

#### **What are the needed ingredients to produce the Higgs boson?**



### A big particle detector! The Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment



- General purpose detector with hermetic design.
- A complex system of particle detectors:
	- $\circ$  Silicon pixel tracker
	- Silicon strip tracker
	- PbWO 4 crystal EM calorimeter
	- Hadron calorimeter
	- Muon system
- **3.8 T solenoid to bend charged particles tracks**

#### **Higgs boson production**





#### May 26, 2022 Lorenzo Viliani (INFN) - CIEMAT seminar 8

## **Higgs boson decay**



- Main bosonic decay modes: WW, ZZ, γγ
- Main fermionic decay modes: bb, ττ





## **The Run 2 of the LHC**





- A huge physics program was explored in Run2, spanning energies from O(GeV) to O(TeV).
- An unprecedented data sample of  $138$  fb<sup>-1</sup> was collected in pp collisions at √s=13 TeV.
- Highlights:
	- All the main Higgs boson production modes observed with  $>5 \sigma$  either in single channels or in the combinations.
	- $\circ$  H $\rightarrow$ μμ direct evidence.
	- o m<sub>H</sub> = 125.38 ± 0.14 GeV
	- Differential measurements in all the main channels

## **The H→WW decay channel**

#### **The H→WW decay channel**





- One of the main channels for cross-section and coupling measurements.
- Several features characterize the sensitivity of a particular channel:
	- o the cross section times branching ratio, i.e.  $\sigma$ (ggH)xBR(HWW);
	- the final state signature;
	- the background discrimination power.

- $BR(W\rightarrow hadrons)~70\% \Rightarrow$  a lot of signal, but huge QCD background at hadron colliders.
- $BR(W\rightarrow V\rightarrow 10\% \Rightarrow$  smaller signal but "clean" final state and less background.

#### **The H→WW→2l2v signature**





What we can measure is the missing momentum in the transverse plane with respect to the proton beams.

$$
\vec{p}_T^{miss}\ =\ -\sum_{obj}\vec{p}_T^{obj}
$$

## **So no peak, no party?**



What do physics books tell us about this channel?

- $m_H$ =125 GeV and  $m_W$ =80 GeV  $\rightarrow$  one of the 2 Ws must be off-shell
- Higgs and W spins play a role!



This is an important handle to deal with backgrounds! Small  $Δφ<sub>u</sub>$  means that m<sub>u</sub> is also very low.

Does not help with backgrounds, but it means that one of the 2 leptons will have very low pT

We need dilepton triggers with low pT thresholds

## **Background processes**



#### Non-resonant WW production



No spin correlation and both Ws are on-shell. Data-driven normalization.

# Top quark processes

Large cross section and similar signature except for the 2 b-jets. B-jets can be identified (and suppressed) using b-tagging algorithms. Data-driven normalization.

#### Drell-Yan processes

Huge cross-section, dominant when looking at leptons with same flavor. Enters also the eμ final state via the leptonic tau decays. Fully data-driven (tau embedding method for emu final states).

Depending on the channel, other backgrounds can be important. Such as the nonprompt lepton production, i.e. jets faking prompt leptons (fully data-driven).

## Let's dig into the **real analysis now**

http://cds.cern.ch/record/2803738?ln=en

[CMS-PAS-HIG-20-013](http://cds.cern.ch/record/2803738?ln=en) New for Moriond/EW 22

### **Analysis goals - cross sections**



- Cross section measurements of different production mechanisms.
- Cross section measurement in the Simplified Template Cross Section (STXS) framework.



- Measure cross sections in pre-defined template bins per production mode with the goal of:
	- minimizing theory dependence;
	- maximizing experimental sensitivity;
	- isolating possible BSM effects.
- $\bullet$  No fiducial phase space (only  $|y_H|$  < 2.5):
	- Possible to combine different decay channels.
	- X Larger extrapolation uncertainties.

17

#### **Analysis goals - couplings**



- The  $H\rightarrow WW$  decay provides direct access to the Higgs coupling with W bosons.
- But measuring different production mechanisms simultaneously allows constraining the couplings with Z and top



Couplings are constrained by a parameterization of  $\sigma$ xBR in terms of the k-framework, e.g.:

$$
(\sigma \times BR)_{gg \to H \to WW} \propto \kappa_t^2 \kappa_W^2
$$

$$
(\sigma \times BR)_{VBF \to H \to WW} \propto (0.73 \kappa_W^2 + 0.27 \kappa_Z^2) \cdot k_W^2
$$



### **Analysis overview**





- The analysis targets ggH, VBF, WH and ZH production mechanisms exploring a variety of final states.
	- $\bullet$  ggH: gg→H( WW→2l2 $\nu$ )
	- VBF:  $qq \rightarrow qqH(WW \rightarrow 2l2v)$
	- $\bullet$  VH2i: V(qq) H( WW $\rightarrow$ 2l2 $\nu$ )

New measurements with the full Run2 dataset!

- $\bullet$  WHSS: W(l<sub>v</sub>) H( W(l<sub>v</sub>) W(qq) )
- WH3I: W( $|v\rangle$  H( WW $\rightarrow$ 2l2 $v$ )
- **ZH3I:**  $Z(II) H(W(IV) W(qq))$
- **ZH4I:**  $Z(11)$  H( WW->212 $\nu$  )

Reload of the measurements already reported in [CMS-PAS-HIG-19-017](http://cds.cern.ch/record/2758367?ln=en)

## **Ingredients**



#### Low pT triggers

- eu triggers with pT>23, 12 GeV
- Single lepton triggers to recover efficiency

#### High performance electron/muon identification

- Requiring lepton isolation is fundamental to tackle nonprompt lepton backgrounds.
- Extensive use of MVA techniques.

#### Efficient b-tagging

Needed to veto events containing a b-tagged jet

#### State of the art Monte Carlo simulations

- Background modelling is important for processes estimated from simulations.
- Using Powheg, Madgraph5\_aMC@NLO, etc.

#### And much more….

anti-kT (DR=4) jets; PUPPI MET; pileup jet ID; a variety of corrections, scale-factors, k-factors, calibrations, validations, …

#### May 26, 2022 Lorenzo Viliani (INFN) - CIEMAT seminar

## **ggH channels - categories**





#### Key aspects:

- Most sensitive channels.
- Different flavor (DF) channels have better performance, but same flavor (SF) are also taken into account.
- For SF the DY background is fully data-driven.



Control regions (CR) used in the fit to constrain background yield Similar control regions are present for all channels



## **ggH channels - fit variables**



#### 2-dimensional template fit using these observables



Do not need dedicated WW control regions.

WW yield constrained using data directly in the signal region.

#### **VBF channels - categories**





#### **VBF channels - fit variables**





#### May 26, 2022 Lorenzo Viliani (INFN) - CIEMAT seminar 24

#### **VH hadronic channel**





- Contributions from both ZH and WH (impossible to distinguish them).
- The dijet mass peaks at the Z/W mass.
- Large ggH contamination.





## **WH 3 leptons**



#### Key aspects:

- Consider the combinatorics of lepton charge and flavor.
- Main backgrounds are WZ and Nonprompt lepton production.
- BDT trained to maximize the signal-to-background separation.
- BDT used as fit variable.





## **WH 2 same-sign leptons**





This is a reasonably good proxy for the true Higgs boson mass

$$
\widetilde{m}_{\rm H}=\sqrt{(p_{jj}+2p_{\ell})^2}
$$

#### Key aspects:

- Target hadronic decays of one of the W arising from the Higgs boson.
- Require the other 2 leptons to have same-sign to reduce backgrounds.
- Main remaining backgrounds are WZ and Nonprompt.



May 26, 2022 Lorenzo Viliani (INFN) - CIEMAT seminar 27

#### **ZH 3 leptons**





- Similar to WHSS, but for the ZH production mechanism.
- The lep+MET and jj systems are close-by in the transverse plane (remember the spins!).
- The main background is WZ.



#### **ZH 4 leptons**



#### Key aspects:

- 4 leptons makes this a very clean channel, the signal is small though.
- 2 sub-categories according to lepton flavor and charge.
- The only background is ZZ.
- Train a BDT to optimize the signal-to-background separation and use it as fit variable.





## **Control regions**



- Important to use control regions for a few reasons:
	- $\circ$  use them in the fit to constrain background yields directly from data;
	- $\circ$  use them to check the shape agreement between data and simulation.





## **Let's now put all the ingredients together…**

http://cds.cern.ch/record/2803738?ln=en

#### **The fit structure**



- Simultaneous maximum likelihood template fit to all signal and control regions.
	- 207 categories
	- $\circ$  1974 bins

$$
\mathcal{L}(\vec{v}, \mu) = \left( \prod_{j=1}^{N_{bins}} \mathcal{P}\left(n_j; \mu \right) s_j(\vec{v}) + b_j(\vec{v}) \right) \cdot \mathcal{N}(\vec{v})
$$

- Different fits are performed according to different signal models:
	- $\circ$  1 µ scaling all Higgs signals;
	- $\circ$  1  $\mu$  per production mode;
	- $\circ$  1 µ per STXS bin;
	- kappa-framework.



## **Inclusive results**



#### Distribution of events as a function of the statistical significance of their corresponding bin in the analysis





Precision on the inclusive signal-strength measurement is below 10%! Dominant contribution of systematic uncertainties.

### **Production mode results**





- Signal strength measurement precision:  $\circ$  ~11% (ggH), ~35% (VBF and VH);
- $\mu_{\text{gph}}$  measurement is systematics-limited. Similar size of stat and syst for  $\mu_{VBE}$  and  $\mu_{WHE}$ .
	- $\mu_{ZH}$  limited by statistical uncertainties.



#### **How do we compare with other channels?**





## **k-framework interpretation**

 $\bullet$  We assume the same scaling k for bosons (k<sub>y</sub>) and for fermions (k<sub>f</sub>).



$$
\sigma \mathcal{B}(X_i \to H \to WW) = \kappa_i^2 \frac{\kappa_V^2}{\kappa_H^2} \sigma_{SM} \mathcal{B}_{SM}(X_i \to H \to WW)
$$

CMS



- $\bullet$  Extremely good precision for k<sub>V</sub>! o And competitive measurement of k<sub>f</sub>.
- Comparable with ATLAS full Run 2 combination of all Higgs decay channels!

**NFN** 

## **STXS measurements**



- STXS is a differential measurement unfolded to particle-level.
- The analysis categories at reconstructed-level are adapted to match the particle-level STXS bin definitions.



## **STXS results**





#### Precisions at low #jets and low  $p_T^H$  comparable to/better than other single decay channels!

Also nice precision for mildly boosted ggH and VH STXS categories!

- The current LHC dataset allowed the simultaneous measurement of 14 STXS bins.
- NB: Correlations between some measurements can be sizeable because of event migrations between nearby categories.



#### **Discussion on uncertainties**





#### May 26, 2022 Lorenzo Viliani (INFN) - CIEMAT seminar 39

## **What else can we do in this channel?**

http://cds.cern.ch/record/2803738?ln=en

#### **Go differential**





Fiducial differential measurement of the H→WW production cross section as function of the Higgs boson pT and number of associated jets.

## **Search for high mass resonances**





- Search for high mass resonances decaying to  $WW\rightarrow212v$ :
	- signal interpreted as an additional heavy Higgs boson with SM-like properties (EW singlet), with different widths and ggH/VBF fraction assumptions;
	- large number of additional interpretations based on 2HDM and MSSM scenarios;
	- $\circ$  Broad excess above  $\frac{2}{9}$  observed around 650 GeV!

#### [CMS-PAS-HIG-20-016](https://cms.cern.ch/iCMS/analysisadmin/get?analysis=HIG-20-016-pas-v9.pdf) New result for Moriond/EW 2022

## Conclusions & Takeaways

### **Conclusions/takeaways**



• A lot has been learned from the Higgs boson discovery 10 years ago!

● The paradigm has changed: from searching for a new particle to the precision measurement of its properties.

- Up to now everything seems very SM-like, but much more is yet to come:
	- Run2 data analysis is not over yet!
	- The Run3 of the LHC is right around the corner.
	- And HL-LHC awaits in the future.

## **Conclusions/takeaways**



attention!

- $\bullet$  H $\rightarrow$ WW is one of the most promising channels for cross section and couplings measurements.
	- Given the extreme complexity, this analysis was also a huge effort in terms of time and personpower!
	- 6 PhD students + a number of postdocs and seniors.
- Several measurements start to be limited by the impact of systematic uncertainties.
	- We will need to improve objects/backgrounds/strategy to perform even better in Run3. Thanks for your
- Stay tuned for more Run2 and new Run3 results to come!

## Supplementary slides

## **Next step: go differential**



- Fiducial differential cross section measurements provide:
	- fundamental test of the SM predictions;
	- a probe of phase spaces sensitive to BSM effects.
- **Differential**: measure cross section in bins of some observables  $(p_T^H, \# \text{jets}, \ldots).$
- **Fiducial**: extrapolate the measurement to a restricted phase space that matches as closely as possible the experimental selections.



- Reduce model dependence by avoiding the extrapolation to the full phase space.
- Long measurement lifetime and easy comparison with different theories.
- X Limited to few variables at the same time.
- X Hard to combine different channels without extrapolating to the full phase space.
- X Non trivial to include complex variables (e.g. DNNs) in the fiducial phase space.



- Many of the same considerations as DF channels apply, with one important difference  $\bullet$
- When selecting leptons with the same flavor (ee,  $\mu\mu$ ) by far the largest background contribution  $\bullet$ comes from  $qq \rightarrow Z \rightarrow \ell \ell$  processes (DY)
- In order to extract the signal, a DNN discriminant is trained, with a tight cut on its output  $\bullet$
- **Problem:**  $\bullet$ 
	- In  $qq \to Z \to \ell \ell$  events  $E_T^{miss}$  comes from detector inefficiencies
	- The phase space region with best S/B is at high  $E_T^{miss}$  $\bullet$
	- Very hard to correctly model in MC
- Once we cut on the DNN's output, we end up with a badly modeled background  $\bullet$
- To circumvent this, a data driven technique is used (next slide)  $\bullet$
- In all SF channels only the number of events enters the fit  $\bullet$

#### SF channels – DY background estimation





- $N_{in}/N_{out}$  is calculated directly from data as the signal contribution in the loose DNN selection  $\bullet$ can be safely neglected
- The loose-to-tight transfer factor  $A_H$  is taken from MC  $\bullet$





2016 rates kept independent because of differing MC setup; DyTT rates split per year because embedded samples (i.e., data) are used







#### ggH DF event requirements





#### ggH SF event requirements





#### VBF DF/SF event requirements







#### WHSS/WH3l event requirements







#### ZH3l/ZH4l event requirements







#### ggH DF yields









## VBF/VH2j yields





### VH leptonic yields



