## Study of Higgs boson pair production in the HH→bbττ channel with CMS Run 3 data

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### **Theoretical context**

- The **Standard Model** of particle physics describes all elementary particles and three of the four fundamental interactions
- The electroweak interaction predicts the existence of massless W± and Z bosons → Higgs mechanism explains the mass terms of gauge bosons through electroweak symmetry breaking (EWSB)
- The Higgs potential shape is the key of the EWSB





### **Exploring the Higgs Potential**

- Two parameters describing the shape: Higgs boson mass and self-interactions
- Higgs self-couplings not measured yet → Direct access via Di-Higgs production



• In the SM: 
$$\lambda_3 = \lambda_4$$
 and fully determined given  $m_{\mu}$  and VEV v

$$\lambda_3 = \frac{m_H^2}{2v^2} \approx 0.13$$

• New physics can affect the shape of the Higgs potential



Higgs self-interactions need to be measured as a powerful closure test of the EWSB and the SM

### The LHC and the CMS experiment

- The LHC is a 27 km circular collider located at CERN
- The Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) is one of the two general purpose experiments at the LHC
  - Cylindrical geometry detector composed by layers of subdetectors
  - Superconducting solenoid providing a magnetic field of 3.8T



Particles leave a signature in the subdetectors

Information coming from subdetectors is combined by Particle Flow algorithm

Reconstruction of the physics objects of the analysis (b-jets, t...)

### **Di-Higgs production at LHC**

- Measurement of Higgs self-coupling is a main goal at the LHC
- The Di-Higgs cross section in the SM it's ~1000 times smaller than Single-Higgs
- New physics effects can modify HH production rates and kinematics

#### Non-Resonant HH production (SM & BSM)

- SM HH production mechanisms → ggF and VBF main production modes
- **BSM** physics effects parametrized by coupling modifiers ( $\kappa = \lambda / \lambda^{SM}$ ):  $\kappa_{\lambda}$ ,  $\kappa_{t}$ ,  $\kappa_{v}$ ,  $\kappa_{2v}$



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• BSM physics effects parametrized by heavy resonance mass  $m_x$ 

#### Rare production rate and complex signal kinematics → Experimental challenges

### HH→bbττ analysis

HH→bbττ : sizeable branching ratio (58%×6%), lower background contamination → One of the most sensitive channels

#### **Run-2 results:**

- Non-resonant ggF + VBF Phys. Lett. B 842.137531
  - Inclusive (ggF + VBF) upper limit on signal strength:  $\sigma^{HH} < 3.3 \times \sigma^{HH}$ (SM) @ 95% CL
  - VBF upper limit on signal strength:  $\sigma^{HH} < 124 \times \sigma^{HH}$ (SM) @ 95% CL
  - Self coupling constrained to: -1.7<κλ<8.7 (other couplings = 1) @ 95% CL
  - C2V coupling (HHVV) constrained to:

#### -0.4<K2V<2.6 (other couplings = 1) @ 95% CL

- Resonant X→YH <u>JHEP 11 (2021) 057</u>
- Ongoing resonant X→HH <u>B2G-24-011</u> (not public yet)
  - With contributions of mine that I will highlight during the presentation

#### **Current Run 3 effort**

Comprehensive effort → working group collaboration for bbtt analysis: UHH - LLR - UZH - KIT ...

- Early Run 3 publication following the Run 2 strategy: non-resonant 2022&2023 analysis, combined with Run 2
- Long term: full Run 3 non-resonant & resonant analyses with re-analysis of Run 2 data



### HH→bbττ final state

- Good compromise between branching ratio (58%×6%) and clean final state
- Searching for Higgs boson pair production decaying into 2 b quarks and  $2\tau$  leptons



### **HH**→bbττ analysis flow

- Basis set relying on Run 2 analyses
- Many developments and new ideas to optimize the searches taking advantage of the Run 3 improvements: selections - background modelling - signal extraction - interpretations



### H→ττ, H→bb and VBF jets candidates

#### – Η→ττ

- Physics objects preselection and identification → Reconstruction of the lepton objects
- Three channels according to the final state:



- Kinematic selection depending on the trigger strategy followed (p<sub>T</sub> thresholds)
- Machine learning techniques (SVFit, FastMTT) to reconstruct the ττ system

#### H→bb

- b jet candidates are sorted using the HH-btag algorithm → The two jets with the highest score are selected as the H→bb candidate
- Two regimes considered



- VBF jets → among all jets not identified as the two b jets
- Two VBF jet candidates selected as the ones that, combined, give the highest invariant mass among all possible combinations.

### H→ττ: τ lepton objects

- Importance of accurate reconstruction and identification of analysis objects
- **τ lepton** decay almost immediately after its production





- **Reconstruction** based on Particle Flow
- Identification: DeepTau  $\rightarrow$  Three different discriminators to identify  $\tau_h$  against jets, electrons and muons

#### 2024 Data/MC τ validation

- As part of my contribution for CMS : Validation work performed within the Tau Physics Object Groups (POG)
   A lenter philod performance for 2024 data
  - →  $\tau$  lepton object performance for 2024 data
    - Studied for a well-understood sample: Z+ττ in a well-understood decay selection: τµτh
- Scale factors to be provided to account for the data/MC discrepancy by the Tau POG



### H→bb: The HH-btag algorithm

- HH-BTag: Neural network based method to improve the selection of b-jets from H→bb decay in the bbττ final state di-Higgs searches
- Input information:
  - Score of the b-jet candidates given by the corresponding tagger
  - $_{\circ}$  ~ Kinematic variables of the b-jet candidate and the HTT candidate
  - Global event variables
  - → Possible expansion to other di-Higgs final states
- Developed and used in **bbττ Run 2 Non-Resonant analysis**, improving H→bb selection efficiency and mass resolution w.r.t. CMS standard b-tagging
- Retraining carried out targeting ongoing bbττ Run 2 resonant analysis + Performance shows improvements w.r.t. previous training
- First version for Run 3 already developed



### H→bb: The HH-btag algorithm

Metric to evaluate the tagger performance: Purity

Purity in the H+bb candidate selection obtained via:

- CMS standard b-taggers: DeepFlav, ParticleNet and RobustParT
- HH-BTag v2: HH-BTag training using UL Run 2 signal samples carried out for the ongoing Run 2 Resonant analysis
- HH-BTag v3: First version for Run 3 using 2022&2023 available signal samples



N<sub>true</sub>(classifier) Purity(classifier) =

N(classifier)

### **Baseline distributions**

- Baseline: Events with a ττ and a bb pair candidates
- Distributions of the HH, H+bb, and H+ $\tau\tau$  system masses after the baseline selection in the  $\tau_{\mu}\tau_{h}$ ,  $\tau_{e}\tau_{h}$  and  $\tau_{h}\tau_{h}$  channels
- Results for a reduced dataset + cooperative work to produce results for the whole dataset
- Corrections to simulated events applied



### **VBF** topology



Ongoing effort to improve VBF analysis strategy

- Discriminant variables of the VBF topology:
  - $\circ$   $\Delta\eta$ (jj): separation in pseudorapidity of the VBF jets
  - mjj: invariant mass of the VBF jets
- Optimization of VBF categorization
  - Current selection: mjj > 500 GeV & Δη(jj) > 3
- VBF signal extraction strategy

Unique handle to access C2v (VVHH coupling)





### **Background modelling**

• All processes are obtained from MC simulation, except the QCD multijet background, estimated from data-driven method



### **QCD** estimation

- QCD background particularly important for τhτh final state → Data-driven estimation in the signal region using ABCD method
- Subleading background, but one of the main ones in the **impact on the sensitivity** → Importance of developing studies on the **validity of the method**





Validity and uncertainty calculation developed in the **bbττ Run 2 non-resonant** analysis → Method validated for **bbττ Run 2 resonant analysis** 

### Summary

My thesis focuses on the study of HH production with CMS data

- Large person power involved in bbττ analyses, 16 institutes working and synchronizing together
- Active collaboration within a working group involving 6 institutes
  - Deployment of the common framework (developed at CIEMAT)
  - Common analysis effort towards a 2022&2023 publication in 2025
- Contributions to **Resonant Run 2 X→HH→bbττ analysis** (not public yet, in review, targeting Moriond <u>B2G-24-011</u>):
  - QCD validation tests
  - HH-BTag retraining and performance evaluation on the analysis samples
- Run 3 HH→bbττ analysis → main thesis topic
  - Continuous development of HH-BTag algorithm
  - Optimization of VBF strategy of the analysis
  - Development of new HH signal interpretations

Other contributions:

- Trigger shifts at CMS control room
- τ validation of 2024 data collected by CMS and continued involvement with Tau POG development work
- Conference talk: "Searches for Higgs boson pair production at CMS" at SUSY2024
- Conference talk: "Search for Higgs boson pair production in the bbττ final state at CMS" at XXXIX RSEF Physics Biennial

# Thank you for your attention!

### **Measuring couplings modifiers**

• Self-couplings can be constrained through total HH cross section and differential distributions



### The Higgs at the LHC

- The LHC is a 27 km circular collider located at CERN
- Protons or heavy ions circulate in opposite directions, colliding in four interaction points where the experiments (CMS, ATLAS, LHCb, ALICE) are located



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### **Di-Higgs phenomenology**

- Rich phenomenology with many final states accessible at LHC
  - → There is not a single golden channel
- Significant experimental challenges due to their rare production rate and complex final states
- To achieve good sensitivity → **compromise** between
  - Branching Ratio (BR)
  - Final state signal purity
  - → Escaping gradually these two constraints thanks to improving reconstruction techniques and identification methods

#### "Big 3" HH analyses

HH+4b : Largest BR, challenging due to high b-jet multiplicity and QCD background

HH+2b2 $\tau$  : sizeable branching ratio, lower QCD background HH+2b2 $\gamma$  : rare process but clean signature due to photons



Decreasing background complexity

### Basis for Run-2 HH→bbττ searches

**Analysis strategies** 

#### Target

- Events with at least 2 b-jets tagged (DeepJet) and 2τ tagged (DeepTau)
- Covering 87.6% of the full di-τ decay modes by considering three di-τ final states: eth, μth, thth

#### **Trigger strategy**

Single electron, single muon, electron or muon + hadronic τ, di-τh

#### Main backgrounds

- Large tt and DY → Simulation
- QCD subleading → Data driven method



categories to maximize the sensitivity

#### – Signal extraction -

Fit signal vs background NN output

#### Main uncertainties

- Statistically dominated
- Theory uncertainties
- Main experimental systematic: QCD background modelling



#### Inclusive (ggF + VBF)

Expected:  $\sigma^{HH} < 5.2 \times \sigma^{HH}$ (SM) @95% CL Observed:  $\sigma^{HH} < 3.3 \times \sigma^{HH}$ (SM) @95% CL

### **Event classification**

• Current classification of the events in different categories to maximize the sensitivity (Run 2 strategy)



### HH→2b2τ non-resonant

- $2b2\tau$  analysis studying the two main production modes: ggF and VBF
  - Signature of VBF: Two additional forward jets with high invariant mass

#### **Data/MC results**

- Events classified in 8 mutually exclusive categories:
  - boosted 
     → Fat jet with 2 loose b-tag sub-jets
  - o resolved 1b, resolved 2b → 1 or 2 jets passing medium b-tag WP
  - VBF categories → mjj>500 GeV and Δηjj > 3. Split into five subcategories (VBF, ggF, ttH, TT, DY) using a multi-classifier

![](_page_25_Figure_9.jpeg)

### HH→2b2τ non-resonant

![](_page_26_Figure_2.jpeg)

### Non-resonant HH Run 2 combination

- Similar sensitivity between **boosted HH+4b**, HH+2b2 $\tau$  and HH+2b2 $\gamma$
- Maximal sensitivity obtained through combination most restrictive upper limits on the Di-Higgs cross section

![](_page_27_Figure_4.jpeg)

• Search for a heavy Higgs boson H decaying into h(125) and another hs: H→hhs production decaying into 2b2τ (h→2τ, hs→2b)

![](_page_28_Figure_2.jpeg)

### HH→2b2τ resonant

- Search for a heavy Higgs boson H decaying into h(125) and another hs: H→hhs production decaying into 2b2τ (h→2τ, hs→2b)
  - H mass range 240-3000 GeV
  - hs mass range 60-2800 GeV
  - → No signal has been observed

Model independent @95% CL upper limits on σ×BR(H→h(ττ)hs(bb) set with a sensitivity ranging from 125 fb (mн=240GeV, mhs=85GeV) to 2.7 fb (mн=1000GeV, mhs=350GeV)

![](_page_29_Figure_7.jpeg)

### **Run 3 improvements**

#### **Improve statistics**

Run 3 is underway, with higher energy and more data to analyze to overcome statistical limitations

#### Analysis techniques

Development of more advanced analysis techniques by taking advantage of new tools and techniques becoming available

#### **Reconstruction and identification**

Improved reconstruction and object identification techniques: ParticleNet and extensive and enhanced use of Machine Learning

#### **Trigger strategies**

Improved for Run 3 based on improved object identification: new b-tagging and τ-tagging algorithms (ParticleNet and DeepTau) → Improvements are expected for all HH searches targeting bb or ττ final states

#### **Extended interpretations**

Exploration of extended interpretations, such as SMEFT, HEFT

### Run-3 HH→bbττ effort

#### Comprehensive bbtt analysis effort: targeting HH, ZH, ZZ

- ggF + VBF in both **resolved & boosted** topologies
- Cross-section and couplings scans k<sub>1</sub>, k<sub>2</sub>v
- Exploration of extended interpretations: SM + SMEFT/HEFT

#### → Early publication: 2022&2023 analysis, combined with Run-2 at datacard-level

→ Long term: full Run-3 nonresonant & resonant analyses with re-analysis of Run-2 data

![](_page_31_Figure_7.jpeg)

→ For now prioritizing HH nonresonant early publication

![](_page_31_Figure_9.jpeg)

### Frameworks & groups

#### Targeting early nonresonant publication

- <u>CCLUB</u> (CIEMAT CEA LLR UZH Milano-Bicocca Colorado-Boulder)
- Bamboo (UCLouvain)
- <u>ColumnFlow</u> (UHH KBFI LIP)
- FLAF (Texas A&U Pisa) → Using HLepRare Run-3 skims
- Run 3 framework setup using coffea (CMU)
- <u>PKU</u>

#### Further efforts targeting resonant production

- <u>CROWN</u> (KIT) (X→HY)
- University of Wisconsin-Madison (High mass boosted)

Person power: ~16PhD + ~11 Postdoc + ~2 Master students (plus staff/seniors in each institute)

![](_page_32_Picture_12.jpeg)

### **CMS standard b-taggers**

#### DeepFlav

- Multi-classification deep-neural-network algorithm employing low-level properties of several charged and neutral particle-flow jet constituents, supplemented with properties of secondary vertices associated with a jet.
- State-of-the-art tagger during Run 2 for heavy flavor tagging

#### ParticleNet

- Graph Neural Network architecture 
   Dynamic Graph Convolutional Neural Network based jet tagging algorithm.

   Instead of treating the jet as a collection of ordered constituents like DeepJet, a jet is considered as an unordered set of its constituent particles or a "particle cloud"
- Recommended during Run 3 for heavy flavor tagging

#### RobustParT

- A ParticleTransformer model specific for the classification of AK4 jets. The transformer model introduces pairwise "interaction" features between all input jet constituents and secondary vertices. These additional layer of inputs give better view of the internal relations of the jet constituents, thus improving the performance of the model.
- In addition, an Adversarial Training (AT) is used to enhance the robustness of the model against the mismodeling of our Monte-Carlo (MC) simulation. AT performs a distortion of our inputs features with respect to the loss function of the neural network. This allows our model to learn how to classify the jet flavour in a region around the jet input features distributions observed on our MC simulation, later reducing the impact of the mismodeling.
- A combination of these two approaches is used to preserve the performance and improve the robustness of heavy flavor tagging and the tagger is called RobustParT

### H→bb: The HH-btag algorithm

![](_page_34_Figure_1.jpeg)

 $N_{true}$ (classifier): The number of events in which the selection of the b-jet pair candidates made by each classifier matches the **ground truth**<sup>\*</sup> definition

N(classifier): Total number of events where a candidate is reconstructed (all the events by requiring two jet candidates reconstructed)

#### \*Ground truth definition

- → Two most energetic b-gen jets to perform the match
- → The true b-jet label is assigned to the reconstructed b-jet if a matching b-gen is found within a cone of size  $\Delta R$ <0.5 around the direction of the b-reco

### H→bb: The HH-btag algorithm

#### **Feature importance**

- Study of the feature importance computed via feature permutation on the training dataset (parity even / parity odd)
  - Overall dominance of the **b-tag** feature importance
  - Kinematics of the jet

![](_page_35_Figure_6.jpeg)

#### Scores distributions

- ggF 2022preEE signal sample
- Jets ordered according to the corresponding tagger
- Requiring at least 2 reco jets

![](_page_35_Figure_11.jpeg)

### **Purity studies**

#### True b-jet label definition: GenJet Hbb:

- v2: Was selected by finding the two b-jets with invariant mass closest to 125 GeV
- New definition: Two GenJets that matches two GenPart required to be pdgId == 5 & MotherpdgId == 25 within a cone  $\Delta R(genJet,genPart) < 0.4$

![](_page_36_Figure_4.jpeg)

- new HHBtag: v3.1 → Purity using new true b-jet label definition
- HHBtag Run3: v3.0 → Purity using original true b-jet label definition
- HHBtag Run2: v2 → Purity using original true b-jet label definition

### **QCD** estimation

- QCD background particularly important for τhτh final state Data-driven estimation in the signal region using ABCD method
- Subleading background, but one of the main ones in the impact on the sensitivity → Importance of developing studies on the validity of the method

#### Validity of the method

Several tests performed to study the validity and stability of the ABCD method

- Tested robustness of the method for different isolation definitions → calculation of the associated systematic uncertainty
- Comparison with direct Data-MC subtraction in sideband region
- Study of the shape modelling
- Tested on highly populated QCD regions

![](_page_37_Figure_9.jpeg)

Validity and uncertainty calculation developed in the **bbtt Run 2 non-resonant** analysis → Method validated for **bbtt Run 2 resonant** analysis

### **Object corrections status**

#### 2022 pre/postEE and 2023 pre/postBPix corrections available and implemented:

- BTV → Run-3 Signal SF from X(bb) analysis available. Corrections for background to be done.
- EGM 🔽
- LUM 🔽
- MUO 🔽
- TAU 🔽
- JME 🔽
  - JECs
  - JERs
  - Jet Veto Maps
- MET 🔽
  - JERs propagation
  - MET Filters

### **Prospects for HH measurements**

- Nature 607 (2022) 60

   YR2018 (ECFA)
   Snowmass ATLAS+CMS
- Large impact of the high luminosity that allows to extend the Di-Higgs production and decays modes accessible at LHC
- Many new developments on reconstruction and identification methods (triggers, machine learning based taggers)

![](_page_39_Figure_4.jpeg)