

SEARCH FOR RESONANT DOUBLE HIGGS PRODUCTION WITH $b\bar{b}Z\bar{Z}$
DECAYS IN THE $b\bar{b}\ell\ell\nu\bar{\nu}$ FINAL STATE IN pp COLLISIONS AT $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV

by

Rami Kamalieddin

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Rami Kamalieddin, Ph.D.

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Since the discovery of the Higgs boson in 2012 by the ATLAS and CMS experiments, most of the quantum mechanical properties that describe the long-awaited Higgs boson have been measured. Due to the outstanding work of the LHC, over a hundred of fb^{-1} of data have been delivered to both experiments. Finally, it became sensible for analyses teams to start working with a very low cross section processes, which made it possible to observe rare decay modes of the Higgs boson, e.g., a recent success in observing $t\bar{t}H$ and $VHbb$ processes. One of the main remaining untouched topics is a double Higgs boson production. However, additional hundred of fb^{-1} per year from the HL-LHC will not necessarily help us much with the SM double Higgs physics, the process may remain unseen even in the most optimistic scenarios. The solution is to work in parallel on new reconstruction and signal extraction methods as well as new analysis techniques to improve the sensitivity of measurements. This thesis is about both approaches: we have used the largest available dataset at the time the analysis has been performed and developed/used the most novel analysis methods. One of such methods is the new electron identification algorithm that we have developed at the CMS electron identification group, to which I have had a privilege to contribute during several years of my stay at CERN.

The majority of this thesis is devoted to techniques for the first search at the LHC for the double Higgs boson production mediated by a heavy narrow-width resonance

in the $b\bar{b}ZZ$ channel: $X \rightarrow HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}ZZ^* \rightarrow b\bar{b}\ell\ell\nu\bar{\nu}$. The measurement searches for a resonant production of a Higgs boson pair in the range of masses of the resonant parent particle from 250 to 1000 GeV using 35.9 fb^{-1} of data taken in 2016 at 13 TeV. Two spin scenarios of the resonance are considered: spin 0 and spin 2. In the absence of the evidence of the resonant double Higgs boson production from the previous searches, we proceed with setting the upper confidence limits.

“... a place for a smart quote”

Lenin, 1922.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This will be a long list!

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

This chapter describes the development of the particle physics following the historical order of how particles were discovered and parts of the Standard Model (SM) were constructed.

1.1 "All things are made of atoms"

The SM is the theory of particles and its interactions that was built during many decades of intense experimental and theoretical work. Particles in this theory are elementary and have no size, meaning they cannot be divided further. This idea of the point-like particles is crucial since it reflects the goal of the particle physics to find and describe the smallest and the most fundamental scale at which nature works. For the last several decades SM is the most tested theory of elementary particles and forces and is presently generally accepted by the whole physics community. Formally, all SM elementary particles are split into two classes: fermions and bosons. Particles with the half-integer spin $1/2$ (quarks and leptons) are called fermions since they obey Fermi-Dirac statistics [3]. The other class of particles is bosons. They are force carriers, have an integer spin, and are characterised by the Bose-Einstein statistics. A rigorous mathematical description of the SM will be given in the next chapter.

Our macroscopic world, from the smallest viruses to the biggest stars, is made of molecules and atoms. To show how deep and significant this simple idea is, let us quote Richard Feynman, a Physics Nobel Prize winner, who once summarised in a single phrase what he believed to be the most important fact about the world around us: "all things are made of atoms" [1]. Feynman himself was the father of the quantum electrodynamics but in this simple statement delivered originally to Caltech students and now known to everyone through his series of physics books, he decided not to go into quantum mechanics principles and illustrated at the rather highly abstract level that everything is made of smaller particles. The quest to the smallest scale and the theory that would describe it were the key ideas that ultimately led to the development of the SM.

Nowadays the physics community knows that molecules are made of atoms, which are not elementary particles either. In lieu atoms have heavy nuclei and light electrons "orbiting" around the nucleus on the electron shells. The nucleus is positively charged proportionally to the number of protons it contains. To provide the stability of the nuclei of the heavy atoms our world also needs neutrons, which have no electric charge. Going to an even smaller scale, it is now known that protons and neutrons are not elementary, instead they are composed of point-like constituents that are called quarks (see Figure 1.1).

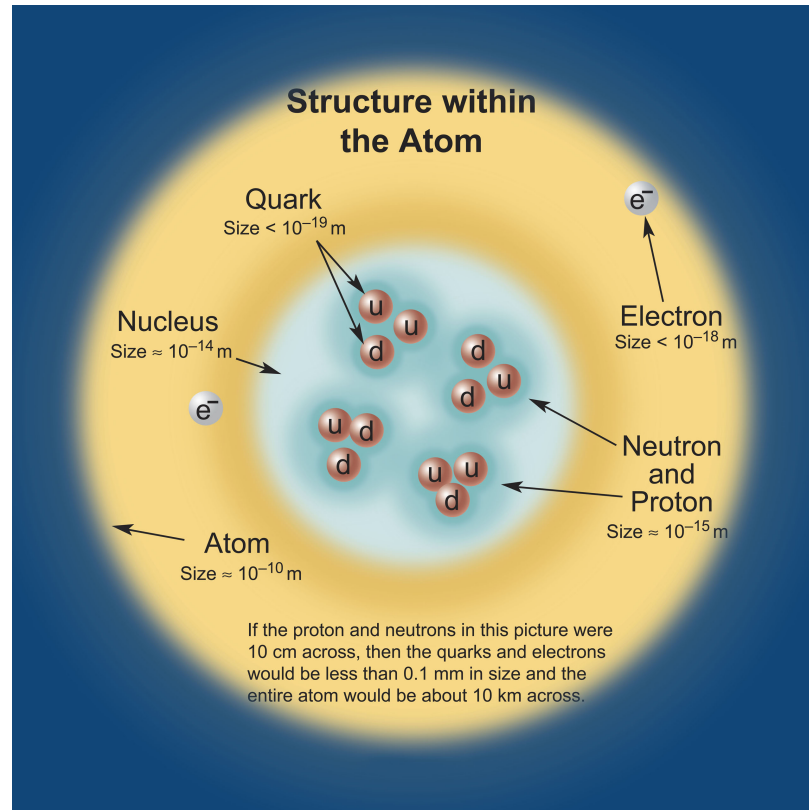


Figure 1.1: The structure of an atom. Approximate scale values are indicated.

Quarks were proposed by Gell-Mann and also by Zweig to explain periodicity in properties of observed subatomic particles [2]. Quarks are arranged in three families or three generations of doublets. A doublet is mathematical construct that is used to explain two-value system. For example, by design of Gell-Mann and Zweig, each quark doublet in their theory is a two quark system that has an "up" quark with the electric charge $+\frac{2}{3}$ and a "down" quark with the charge $-\frac{1}{3}$. For antiquarks signs of charges are reversed. The physics world before Gell-Mann and Zweig got used to the fact that particles have integer charges due to an enormous number of observations. The fact that the quark charge values were fractional was so revolutionary to Gell-Mann that he decided not to publish his article in a highly prestigious journal but, expecting a rejection, decided to go with the second tier one [2]. However, with time

out of all the theories that were trying to explain the difference in masses of observed hadrons it was the Eightfold way theory of Gell-Mann and Zweig that turned out to be correct. Now, the quark theory is one of the key elements of the SM theory. The SM includes six different types of quarks and to distinguish one quark from another there is a "flavor" number assigned to them. For instance, a charm quark has +1 unit of "charmness", while a strange quark has -1 unit of "strangeness". All the other flavor fields are zero for quarks. This pattern is applied to all the other four quarks to fill the corresponding "quarkness" numbers.

Another important characteristics of quarks was revealed at the e^+e^- colliders when physicists compared production rates of muons and hadrons. The theory was off by a factor of three. This was the motivation to introduce three quark colours: green, blue, and red. Quarks were observed decades after electrons had been discovered. In particle physics, electron belong to a family of leptons. A lepton is an elementary particle with the spin $1/2$ that participates in all but strong interactions, which will be discussed in more detail later in this chapter. The electron was discovered by Thompson [4] in 1897 when he was studying the properties of a cathode ray. Due to this discovery, that year may be considered the beginning of an era of a particle physics: a dozen of particles were discovered in the next decades. In 1936, another lepton was observed, a muon [5], in an experiment of Anderson and Neddermeyer who studied cosmic radiation. In essence, a muon is almost a copy of an electron, but is 207 times heavier and no explanation for this mass difference exists in the SM. As a side note, according to Carl Bender, there is a story that Feynman was able to derive the mass of the muon starting with the mass of an electron, but the world has never seen that calculation published [6].

Analogously to quark families, the other fermions, leptons, are also arranged in generations. Each generation is a doublet that consists of a charged lepton (electron,

muon or tau) with the charge -1 and a neutral lepton (corresponding electron, muon, or a tau neutrino). Electron and muon neutrinos had been discovered in 1956 and 1962, respectively. The existence of the electron neutrino was deduced from the violation of the conservation of energy in a beta decay, while the muon neutrino [7] was discovered by Schwartz, Lederman, and Steinberger during an experiment with the pion beam where leptons from the pion decays arrive to the aluminum spark chamber after passing the steel wall. 51 events of interest had been observed after running the experiment for several months. Those events could not be due to electron neutrinos, since they will interact with the metal and produce electrons. The presence of narrow muon tracks in the chamber in each event, hence muons, was a clear indication that those neutrinos were of a different kind, they were muon neutrinos. Finally, a tau lepton and a tau neutrino were discovered in 1975 and 2000 correspondingly [8,9]. With that, all three families of the SM leptons were observed: a long-awaited tau neutrino, which was decades ago theoretically speculated to exist, was finally discovered experimentally. In a like manner to families of quarks, lepton masses grow with the generation, where a tau from the third generation is the heaviest lepton. To classify leptons of different families the lepton numbers were reserved: 1 unit of electron number to an electron and an electron neutrino, 1 unit of muon number to a muon and an muon neutrino, and 1 unit of tau number to a tau and a tau neutrino.

1.2 Fundamental forces

In nature there are four fundamental forces: gravitational, weak, electromagnetic, and strong forces. This thesis will classify all four forces [10] in terms of the relative strength, the range that they can cover, the spin of the mediator, and whether the

force's nature is attractive, repulsive, or both. This should be taken critically, since this is quite ambiguous categorisation, but it has a deep pedagogical meaning because it helps to illustrate in which regime each of the forces is dominant. According to Carl Bender, this is of great importance since it is one of the main approaches to solving physics problems: to know which effects are the dominant and which are subdominant. This helps to justify what effect can be neglected and what approximation can be used. Thus, it allows the possibility to do calculations for problems where closed-form solutions do not exist, which is almost all the complex phenomena around us [6].

The first force on our list of forces that exist in our world is the gravitational force. This force governs the Universe at the macroscopic level: planets, solar systems, etc. The first theory of gravity was formulated by Newton [11] and then further developed by Einstein. A good historical perspective is available at [12]. It is worth noting that the gravitational force is not included in the SM. Attempts are ongoing to expand the SM, e.g., adding the graviton as a mediator, but no real success so far has been achieved to create a renormalizable theory that would combine both SM and gravity [13]. Surprisingly, gravity is the weakest force, the only reason why the motion of planets and galaxies is governed by gravity is because those are gigantic objects. Gravity effects become the dominant ones at the macroscopic scale because of an enormous number of particles involved in the interaction. If the strength of the strongest force, which is the strong force, is set to 1, then the strength of the gravity will be about 10^{-41} . It is contemplated that the gravity mediator (the graviton), if exists, would have a charge of zero, zero mass, spin 2, and should be a stable particle. The gravitational force is of the infinite range and its nature is purely attractive, while all other three forces can exhibit both an attractive and a repulsive behaviour. Einstein's general relativity theory, though not a quantum theory, is the only working

theory of gravity as of now.

The next force that is going to be discussed is the weak force. It is mediated by a charged W (charge $+1/-1$) boson or a neutral Z boson, thus giving name to charged and neutral weak interactions correspondingly. All SM fermions, quarks and leptons, experience the weak force. The relative strength of the weak force is 10^{-16} and the range of applicability is 10^{-3} fm. All three weak bosons (W^+ , W^- , and Z) have spin 1 and are quite massive: $m_{W^\pm} = 80.385$ GeV and $m_Z = 91.189$ GeV. GeV is the unit of the "natural system of units", in which $\hbar = c = 1$. This system is very popular in the high-energy physics and is widely used in this thesis. Adoption of this system simplifies how many equations look and also makes a fine-structure constant $\alpha \approx 1/137$ dimensionless. Using the natural system of units [14], masses, momenta, and energies are measured in electronvolts (eV), with GeV (10^9 eV) and TeV (10^{12} eV) being the most popular units in a modern high-energy physics due to energy regimes involved.

Charged weak interactions are interesting due to the fact that a primitive interaction vertex can be thought of as a point where a charged lepton is converted to a neutral lepton or vice versa. A good example is a muon decay, which is a conversion of the muon to a muon neutrino with the help of the W boson, which further decays to an electron and a corresponding electron antineutrino. It is worth noting that charged weak interactions do not conserve the flavor of quarks, e.g., members of doublets of the third and the second families can be converted into members of the lower family of quarks. This fact is reflected in the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) matrix [15]. This matrix describes the strength of the flavour-changing weak interactions. Since diagonal elements of this matrix are less than one and off-diagonal elements are non-zero, CKM matrix represents a mismatch of quantum states of quarks when they propagate freely and when they take part in the weak interactions.

In other words, the CKM matrix with non-zero off-diagonal elements means cross-generation interactions are allowed and this is the information that the CKM matrix quantifies.

$$\begin{pmatrix} |V_{ud}| & |V_{us}| & |V_{ub}| \\ |V_{cd}| & |V_{cs}| & |V_{cb}| \\ |V_{td}| & |V_{ts}| & |V_{tb}| \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.97427 \pm 0.00015 & 0.22534 \pm 0.00065 & 0.00351^{+0.00015}_{-0.00014} \\ 0.22520 \pm 0.00065 & 0.97344 \pm 0.00016 & 0.0412^{+0.0011}_{-0.0005} \\ 0.00867^{+0.00029}_{-0.00031} & 0.0404^{+0.0011}_{-0.0005} & 0.999146^{+0.000021}_{-0.000046} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (1.1)$$

The third force, the electromagnetic (EM) force, is one of the main forces that we experience in our everyday life. The reason the one can sit in the chair and do not fall further down due to gravity, is that electrons of the body repel electrons of the chair. Relative strength of the EM force is 10^{-3} and the range of applicability is infinite. A photon, as its mediator, has zero mass and spin 1. The theory that describes photon interaction with leptons and quarks is called quantum electrodynamics (QED) and was developed in 1940th and 1950th by Tomonaga, Schwinger, Feynman, and Dyson [16]. Electric charge is conserved in EM interactions and no single photon-to-fermion vertex is possible, there are always two fermions that must be involved.

In the SM several multi-boson vertices are allowed. W and Z bosons that participate in weak interactions can couple to each other, so WWZ , $WWWW$, and $WWZZ$ vertices are possible in the SM. In addition, W boson can couple to photons, so γWW , γWWZ , and $WW\gamma\gamma$ vertices are allowed too. Even though Z boson is massive and photon is a massless boson, Z boson has a neutral charge. This makes it possible that any interaction where the photon is a force carrier, can also be mediated by the Z boson.

The strong force, the forth force of nature, is the strongest known force. Gluons are the carriers of this force and each gluon carries one unit of color and one unit

of anticolor. There are nine types of gluons but, technically, the ninth gluon is a color invariant and would give rise to an infinite range of the strong force, which contradicts experiments. That is why modern physics assumes that in our world only eight gluons exist [2, 15]. Gluons carry color charge and can couple to each other. For several high order processes in quantum chromodynamics (QCD), 3- and 4-gluon vertices have to be introduced to restore gauge invariance and no higher order vertices are required [17].

To summarise the knowledge about the SM forces, one often refers to the Feynman diagram representation [18]. Fig. 1.2 shows all allowed SM particle interactions and corresponding simple vertices.

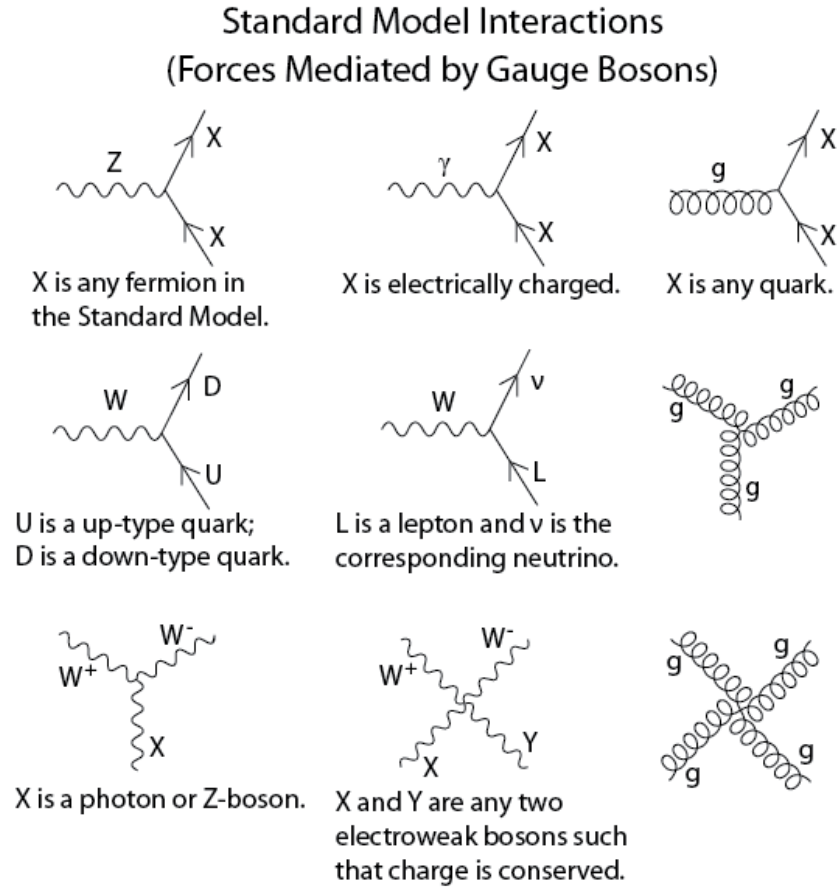


Figure 1.2: All SM interaction and simple vertices.

1.3 The Brout-Englert-Higgs mechanism

The description of the SM picture will not be complete without mentioning the main particle, yet missing until 2012th ... the Higgs boson! (Fig. 1.3 [19]) After the electroweak (EW) unification by Glashow, Salam, and Weinberg [20], it was still not clear what is the origin of the mass of fundamental particles. In 1964, Robert Brout and François Englert [21], Peter Higgs [22], Gerald Guralnik, C. Richard Hagen, and Tom Kibble [23] (BEHGHK authors), proposed the method by which the particles can acquire mass. This technique consists of three stages and we will discuss them

one-by-one:

1. The Brout-Englert-Higgs (BEH) mechanism
2. The BEH field
3. The Higgs boson.

The first stage, the BEH mechanism, is simply a spontaneous symmetry breaking (SSB) mechanism, which is a mathematical trick consisting of rewriting the original scalar fields in the EW Lagrangian, rearranging equations, and requiring that the fields are real. What does this lead to? One started with a scalar complex field and a massless vector field and after SSB one obtained a single real scalar field (Higgs boson) and a massive vector field. In terms of our physical world this is what gives mass to W and Z bosons.

The second stage is the BEH field. It exists everywhere and has been present almost since the Big Bang [24]. It is a property of our world. All the fundamental particles that interact with the BEH field acquire mass. Those, who do not interact directly (at the tree level), have no mass and all their energy is in the form of the momentum, thus they can travel with the speed of light. The more the particle interacts with the BEH field, the higher is the coupling to the Higgs boson or simply the higher is the mass of the particle. The coupling of the Higgs boson to fermions is proportional to the mass of the fermions, and for W and Z bosons it is proportional to the squared mass of bosons, making the top quark and the Z boson the most massive fermion and boson respectively (see Fig. 1.4 [25]).

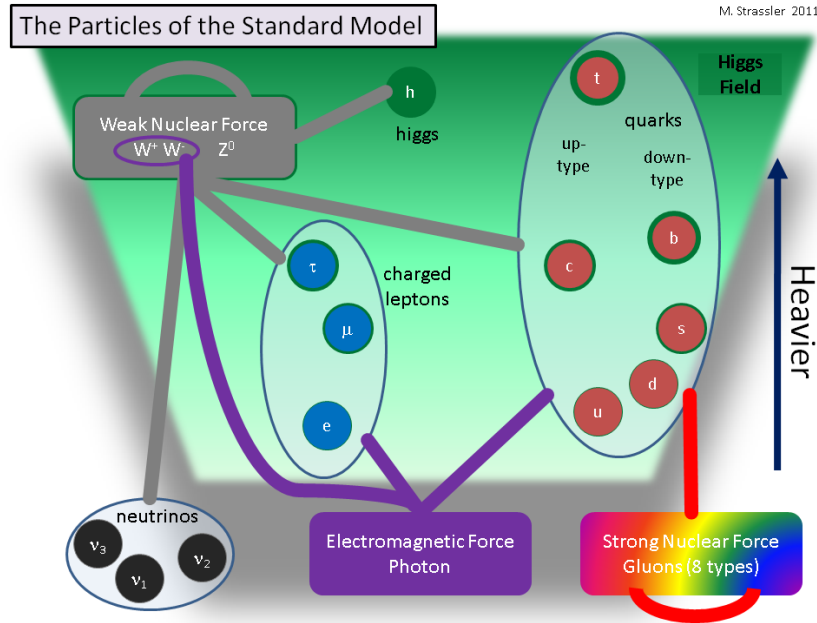


Figure 1.3: SM particles and force carriers. Self-interactions are also shown. The strength of the coupling to the Higgs boson increases from the bottom to the top, which is illustrated by the shades of the green color (the Higgs field).

The third and, arguably the most important stage, the Higgs boson. The Higgs boson is the excitation of the BEH field. Thus, the Higgs bosons can be produced at colliders by pumping more and more energy in a small space-time region exciting the BEH field to "produce" the Higgs bosons. In reality this happens through making the LHC beams more energetic and thus, during the collision, having more energetic gluons (and also quarks). The main production mechanism is called a gluon fusion, when through the top quark loop a single Higgs boson is produced. This accounts for about 90% of the overall LHC Higgs production at the 13 TeV energy. The second mechanism is a vector boson fusion. The third mechanism is the associated production with a weak boson. And the smallest contributor to the Higgs boson production is the $t\bar{t}H$ process, which stands for the associated production of the Higgs boson with the top anti-top quark pair. All mentioned Higgs boson production mechanisms are

presented in the form of Feynman diagrams in Fig. 1.5.

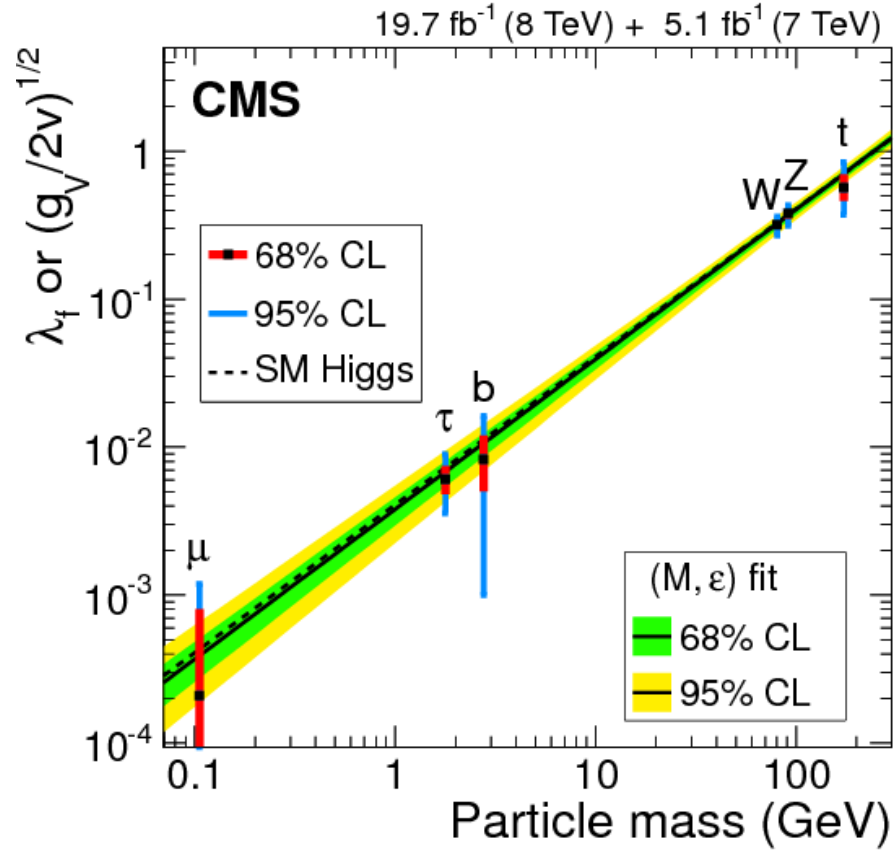


Figure 1.4: Coupling of particles to SM Higgs boson versus the mass of the particle, log-log scale is used.

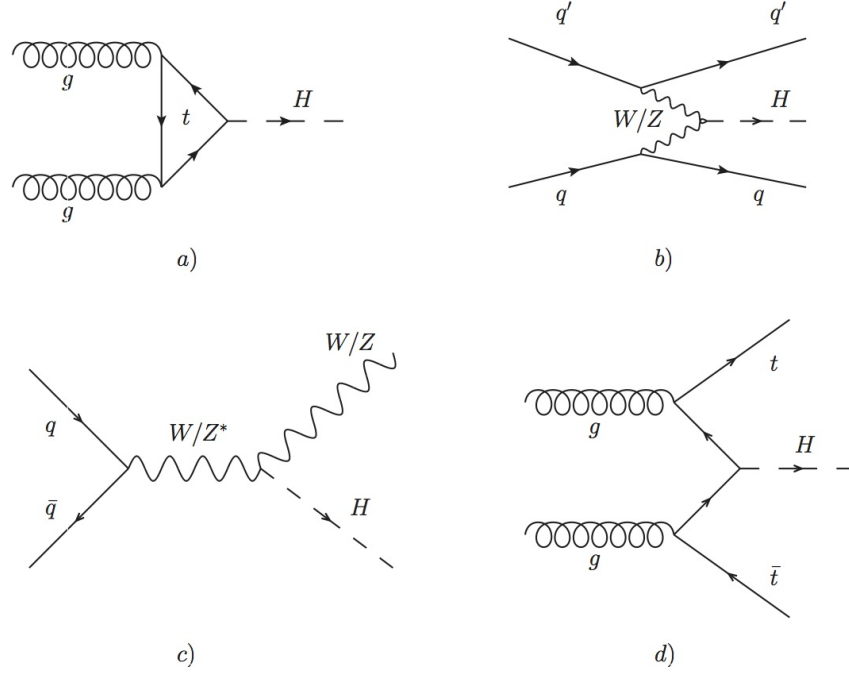


Figure 1.5: SM Higgs boson production modes: a) a gluon fusion, b) a vector boson scattering, c) an associated production with a vector boson, d) an associated production with the top anti-top pair.

When describing Higgs bosons physics one cannot avoid mentioning the decay channels of the Higgs boson. In physics branching fraction term is reserved to quantify the probabilities with which a parent particle decays to daughter particles (see Fig. 1.6). The work of this thesis focuses on two specific Higgs boson decays, $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ and $H \rightarrow ZZ$. The first one has the highest branching fraction, while the second one gives a clean signature when subsequent $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$ decays are selected. Before we conclude with the BEHGHK method, a little bit of history, an irony of life, actually. The BEH particle is called the Higgs boson, but Peter Higgs was not the first to publish the article on the BEH mechanism, in fact he was the last out of BEHGHK authors! His very first article was rejected since it contained no specific predictions or conclusions drawn from his calculations. This is why he was out-published by others. But this rejection made him write another article where he explicitly predicted an existence

of the new boson. And this is what has made all the difference, he was the first to predict a new boson, and this boson now is called the Higgs boson.

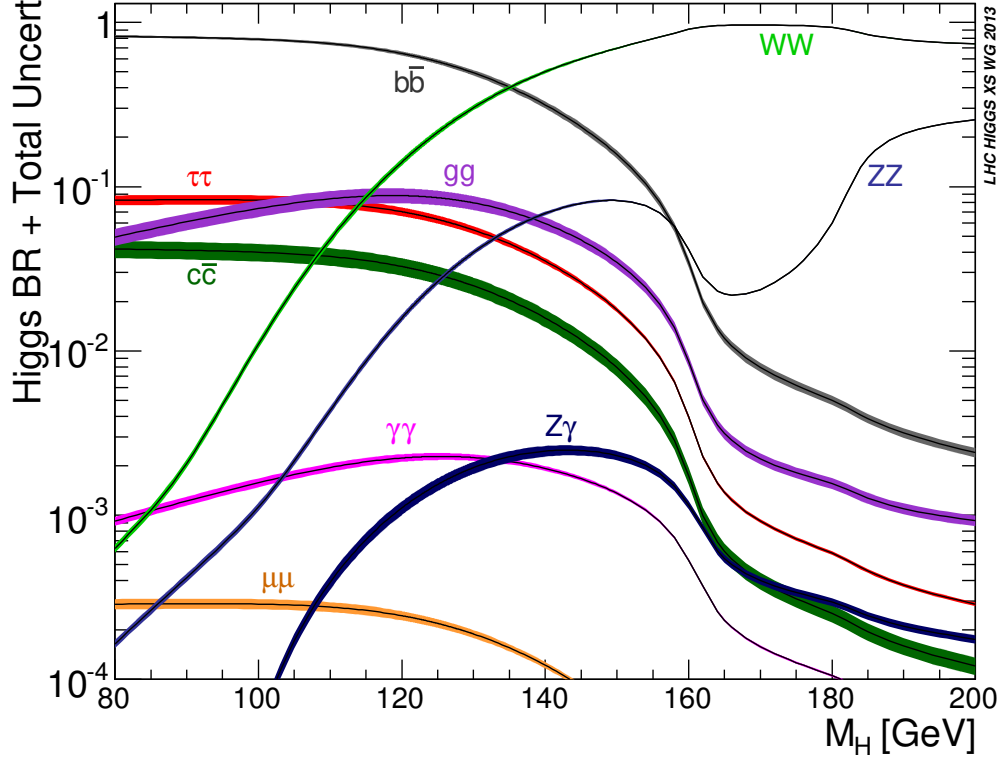


Figure 1.6: Higgs boson decay channels. At 125 GeV the dominant decay mode is $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$.

Even though the facts above tell us about how great the SM is, the SM is still far from being perfect. Masses of elementary particles are the parameters in this theory, they do not come from SM predictions. It is hypothesised that the SM could be a part of the larger ultimate theory, the so-called "The Theory of Everything" (TOE), which is to be written (had been a lifelong journey of another genius, Einstein [26]). There is hope that the TOE will be able to explain many phenomena, such as the quark mass hierarchy, flavor mixing, etc. Also, in the SM all neutrinos are massless, however, it has been shown that they have a non-zero mass [27]. This fact is one of the main motivations for theorists to look for extensions of the SM.

CHAPTER 2

Theory

In the previous chapter we introduced the SM and discussed particles and interactions that the SM as a theory describes. In this chapter we will discuss first the general mathematical formalism of the SM and in the second part we will focus on the double Higgs boson physics in the Beyond the Standard Model (BSM) theory.

2.1 Lagrangian formalism of the Standard Model

The SM uses the Lagrangian mechanics as the mathematical approach to describe quantitatively the interactions of elementary particles and fields. The SM Lagrangian can be split into four main contributions [126]:

$$\mathcal{L}_{SM} = \mathcal{L}_{YM} + \mathcal{L}_{ferm} + \mathcal{L}_H + \mathcal{L}_{Yuk} \quad (2.1)$$

This equation contains the following terms:

- gauge bosons and their interactions, \mathcal{L}_{YM}
- fermions and their interactions with the gauge bosons, \mathcal{L}_{ferm}

- Higgs boson, its self-interaction, and interaction with the gauge bosons to give them mass, \mathcal{L}_H
- fermions and their interactions with the Higgs boson, which through the Yukawa mechanism give mass to fermions, \mathcal{L}_{Yuk}

The first term in the SM Lagrangian in full can be written as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{YM} = -\frac{1}{4}W_{\mu\nu}^i(x)W_i^{\mu\nu}(x) - \frac{1}{4}B_{\mu\nu}(x)B^{\mu\nu}(x) - \frac{1}{4}G_{\mu\nu}^a(x)G_a^{\mu\nu}(x) \quad (2.2)$$

where

$$B_{\mu\nu}(x) \equiv \partial_\mu B_\nu - \partial_\nu B_\mu \quad (2.3)$$

$$W_{\mu\nu}^i(x) \equiv \partial_\mu W_\nu^i(x) - \partial_\nu W_\mu^i(x) - g\varepsilon^{ijk}W_\mu^j W_\nu^k \quad (2.4)$$

$$G_{\mu\nu}^a(x) \equiv \partial_\mu G_\nu^a(x) - \partial_\nu G_\mu^a(x) - g_s f^{abc}G_\mu^b G_\nu^c \quad (2.5)$$

with indexes $i, j, k = 1, 2, 3$ and $a, b, c = 1, \dots, 8$. According to the Noether's theorem, each symmetry is intrinsically connected to the conservation law [137]. The fields in the \mathcal{L}_{YM} are connected to their corresponding underlying symmetries in the following way: $B_{\mu\nu}$ corresponds to $U(1)$ symmetry of the weak hypercharge Y_k , $W_{\mu\nu}^i$ corresponds to $SU(2)_I$ symmetry of the weak isospin I_w^i , and $G_{\mu\nu}^a$ corresponds to $SU(3)_c$ symmetry of the QCD color charge. The "B" field is a kinematic term, "W" and "G" terms describe interactions among the bosons, g and ε are $SU(2)$ coupling and structure constants, g_s and f are coupling and structure constants for $SU(3)$.

The second term in the SM Lagrangian shows how fermions interact with the

gauge bosons. Notice, that the mass terms are still absent:

$$\mathcal{L}_{ferm} = i\bar{\Psi}_L \not{D}\Psi_L + i\bar{\psi}_{l_R} \not{D}\psi_{l_R} + i\bar{\Psi}_Q \not{D}\Psi_Q + i\bar{\psi}_{u_R} \not{D}\psi_{u_R} + i\bar{\psi}_{d_R} \not{D}\psi_{d_R} \quad (2.6)$$

Above Ψ represents a doublet of a charged lepton and a corresponding neutral lepton within the same lepton family of $SU(2)_L$, the letter Q is reserved for a family of quarks, and ψ_R describes a right-handed leptonic singlet.

Gauge boson interactions are present due to the derivative term:

$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu + igI_w^i W_\mu^i + ig'Y_w B_\mu + ig_s T_c^a G_\mu^a \quad (2.7)$$

$$(2.8)$$

Physical fields in this notation are represented by a linear combination of W and B fields:

$$A_\mu = B_\mu \cos \theta_W + W_\mu^3 \sin \theta_W \quad (2.9)$$

$$Z_\mu = -B_\mu \sin \theta_W + W_\mu^3 \cos \theta_W$$

where θ_W is known as the *Weinberg angle* [128].

With the first two terms of the SM Lagrangian one obtains a valid theory of fermions and bosons, however, these particles are massless in this theory [127], which evidently contradicts the reality. To solve this issue and to ensure that weak bosons are massive, one has to introduce a Higgs field. Higgs mechanism enters the SM Lagrangian through the corresponding Higgs Lagrangian term given by

$$\mathcal{L}_H = (D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger (D^\mu \Phi) - V(\Phi), \quad V(\Phi) = -\mu^2 (\Phi^\dagger \Phi) + \frac{\lambda}{4} (\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^2 \quad (2.10)$$

where

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi^+ \\ \phi^0 = (v + H + i\chi)/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with} \quad v = 2\sqrt{\frac{\mu^2}{\lambda}} \quad (2.11)$$

here μ and λ are parameters of the Higgs potential. The Higgs boson mass is proportional to the μ parameter. In 2012, with precise single Higgs boson mass measurements from both ATLAS and CMS experiments, the value of μ was determined. Since that time many analyses at CERN have been targeting the measurement of the λ parameter, because it is related to the shape of Higgs potential. The simplest interaction that is probing the Higgs potential directly is the one where the Higgs boson self-coupling is present. That is why double Higgs (HH) process is the main topic of this thesis.

The value of the Higgs field vacuum expectation value v , after the SSB, can be expressed in terms of μ and λ and is shown at 2.10 [129]. See Fig. 2.1 for an illustration of the Higgs potential before and after the SSB.

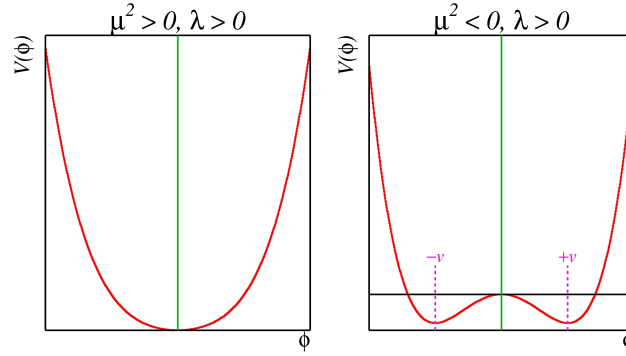


Figure 2.1: Shape of the Higgs potential before and after the SSB that is determined at the leading orders by μ and λ parameters.

After adding \mathcal{L}_H and rearranging terms, bosons have masses given by:

$$M_W = \frac{gv}{2}, \quad M_Z = \frac{M_W}{\cos \theta_W}, \quad M_H = \sqrt{2\mu^2} \quad (2.12)$$

The final contribution to the SM Lagrangian is the Yukawa term, with Yukawa Lagrangian given by:

$$\mathcal{L}_{Yuk} = -i\bar{\Psi}_L G_l \psi_{l_R} \Phi - i\bar{\Psi}_Q G_u \psi_{u_R} \tilde{\Phi} - i\bar{\Psi}_Q G_d \psi_{d_R} \Phi + h.c. \quad (2.13)$$

where $\tilde{\Phi} = i\sigma^2 \Phi^*$

The masses of fermions enter the equations through the 3×3 matrices G , which are free parameters in the SM and have to be determined from the experiment. The mass of each fermion is proportional to the Yukawa coupling of the corresponding fermion to the Higgs boson, see Fig. 1.4.

In the SM the simplest Higgs potential is characterised by μ and λ parameters. Having this "Mexican hat" potential in the SM is sufficient to obtain the SSB phenomenon. This gives mass to fermions and bosons. However, the shape of the Higgs potential may be different and direct precise determination of the μ and λ parameters is a sensitive tool to test the limitations of the SM and may open doors to the BSM effects. All this makes HH physics one of the main goals for the future High Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC).

While mass parameter has been measured fairly accurately, λ parameter requires even HL-LHC to run for many years to get enough statistics since HH processes are rare and are of almost three orders of magnitude lower rate than the single Higgs boson production. Technically, the amount of the HL-LHC data is not enough to reach the sensitivity of the SM for HH processes. At the same time, several BSM models predict resonant HH production to which even the current LHC data could be sensitive. In this theories, HH is produced through the decay of a heavy narrow

width resonance, which is not a part of the SM. Thus, if such processes are found, this will open a new chapter in the HEP physics. In this thesis we focus on the resonant production of the HH system, which further decays to leptons and quarks. With the available CMS data, resonant HH analyses are starting approaching the needed sensitivity to rule out some BSM theories and test further the most promising ones.

2.2 Double Higgs in Beyond the Standard Model

Several BSM theories [33, 60, 62] predict a resonant production of the double Higgs boson events through a heavy resonance of a narrow width ($\sim O(1-10)$ GeV) [130]. In this dissertation data is compared with respect to predictions from the Warped Extra Dimensions theory (WED) [63]. WED theory to address the hierarchy problem adds additional fifth dimension to the 4-dimensional (4D) space-time. In the framework that Randall and Sundrum (RS) [131] introduced, 4D space is an EFT approximation of the higher dimensional space, where two heavy BSM particles may exist as Kaluza-Klein (KK) [132] excitation modes at the TeV scale. Those two particles are called a radion (spin 0) and a graviton (spin 2).

Since LHC had provided us with no evidence of the SM particles interacting with the RS particles, it is postulated that the latter are confined to a 3-brane, or a so-called wall. At the same time, gravity, which the SM does not address but enters the RS theory, can propagate freely in the full higher-dimensional space, the so-called bulk. When the bulk is compactified, it may produce KK modes of the gravitons. In this thesis RS model with parameter k of the order of Planck scale and \bar{M}_{Pl} , a reduced 4D M_{Pl} which is a function of the 5D Planck scale M and a parameter k with $k < M$, are assumed to satisfy the constraint $0.01 \leq k/\bar{M}_{Pl} \leq 1$, because values outside of this range overcomplicate the theory [133]. Considered in this measurement graviton

and radion are RS KK graviton and RS radion particles that emerge in RS scenario with a KK state mass of the order of TeV.

Let us denote a part of the KK 5D wave function, often called a profile, as $f_X^{(n)}(\phi)$, where n is referred to the n^{th} KK mode, then the graviton 4D profile wave-function can be expressed as $h_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}(x_\mu)(f_X^{(n)}(\phi))$ and the zero-th mode of this function would correspond to the graviton that is a gravity mediator. Its effective mass is of the order of TeV. The Lagrangian describing the interaction of the graviton with the SM fields is given then by

$$\mathcal{L}_{graviton} = -\frac{x_1 \tilde{k}}{m_G} h^{\mu\nu(1)} \times d_i T_{\mu\nu}^{(i)}, \quad (2.14)$$

where $T_{\mu\nu}^{(i)}$ is a 4D canonical energy-momentum tensor [134] for any SM field i and d_i is an integral of the profiles of the SM fields and KK gravitons. A free parameter \tilde{k} is inversely proportional to the Planck mass and varies from 0.01 to 1 when $M_{graviton}$ is varied from 100 to 1500 GeV.

For radion the Lagrangian is similar and is given by:

$$\mathcal{L}_{radion} = -\frac{r}{\Lambda_R} \times a_i T_\mu^{\mu(i)}, \quad (2.15)$$

where Λ_R is a scale parameter proportional to the Planck mass and r is a 5D radion field. RS authors assume that the profiles of the graviton and radion are localised at the TeV scale to have the coupling of a radion and a graviton to the massive SM fields be of the order of 1.

In the SM the HH system is produced via two diagrams shown on Fig. 2.2: the "box" and the "triangular" diagrams. They interfere destructively and the total cross section is thus lowered (Fig. 2.4 on the right). The box diagram dominates the double Higgs boson production and peaks near 400 GeV. An extensive study has been

performed by theorist and more details can be found at [135]. In this measurement, though, the gravitons and radions in the search are expected to be produced by three BSM "contact interaction" Feynman diagrams allowed by the WED scenario. These processes are given on Fig. 2.3. A graviton and a radion subsequent decays to HH system are thoroughly studied and the experimental results are compared to the theoretical predictions calculated for the WED model with the parameters $\tilde{k} = 0.1$ and $\Lambda_R = 3$ TeV.

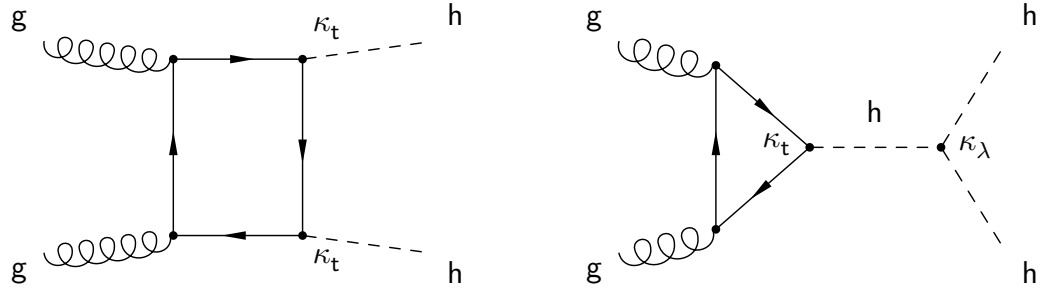


Figure 2.2: SM double Higgs boson production.

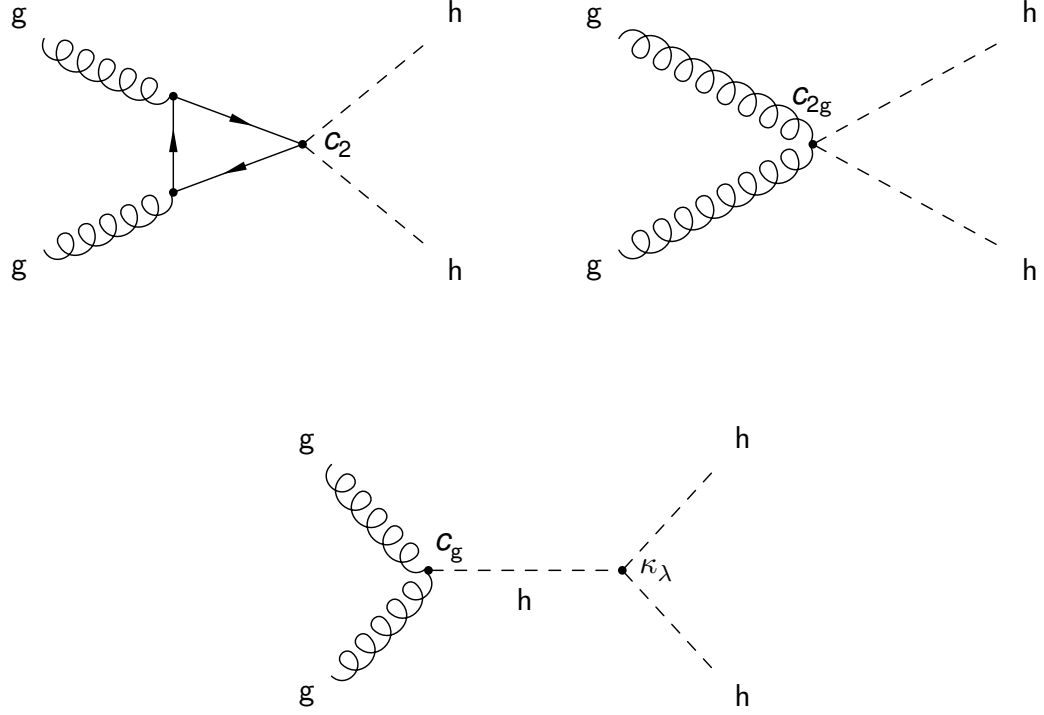


Figure 2.3: BSM double Higgs boson production.

The kinematic distribution of the double Higgs mass remains to a high degree unchanged between 13-14 and 100 TeV (see Fig. 2.4 on the left), therefore, we can compare 100 TeV results produced by theorist to those analysed in this thesis that use the data delivered by the current 13 TeV LHC machine. Fig. 2.4 refers to the box and the triangular diagrams as "box" and "tri", and to the non-linear interaction as "nl". [136].

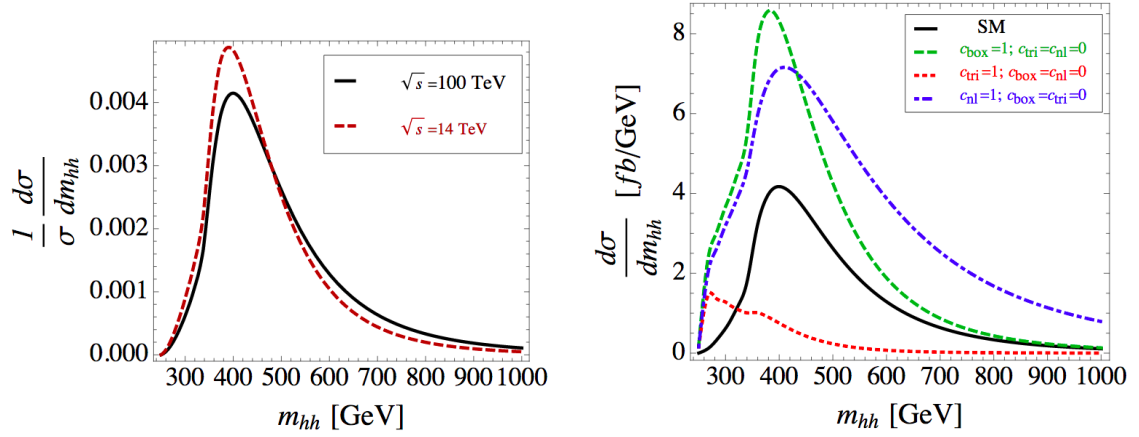


Figure 2.4: Left: comparison of the double Higgs boson mass distribution at the LO at 14 and 100 TeV center-of-mass energy. Right: the total HH cross section and the individual contributions.

From the physics point of view it is also interesting to measure BSM contact interaction couplings. The future non-resonant version of this data analysis will target such a measurement. In this case, c_2 , the coupling of two heavy quarks with two Higgs bosons, c_{2g} , the coupling of two gluons with two Higgs bosons, and c_g , the direct coupling of the gluons to the Higgs boson will be studied (see Fig. 2.3).

This thesis addresses separately resonant graviton and radion decays into two SM Higgs bosons with the subsequent decays of one Higgs boson to a pair of b quarks, and the other Higgs boson to W or Z boson pairs. W bosons are allowed to decay only leptonically. For Z boson decays, the signature is characterised by the on-shell Z boson decaying into a pair of charged leptons and the off-shell Z boson decaying to neutrinos (see Fig. 2.5). The final state that this thesis focuses on consists of two b quarks, two leptons, and two neutrinos. This signature has a branching fraction of approximately 2.8%.

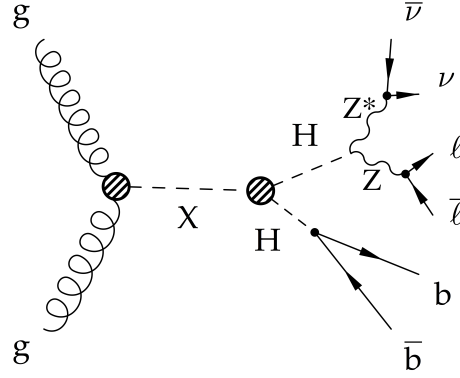


Figure 2.5: Double Higgs decay in the 2 b, 2 lepton, and 2 neutrino final state.

To finish this chapter, it is instructive to show all the decay channels of the double Higgs system to the SM particles, which is summarised in the Fig. 2.6.

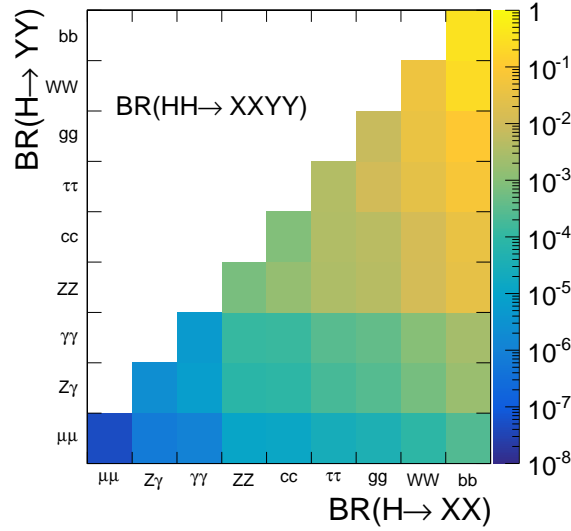


Figure 2.6: Double Higgs decay channels according to the SM branching fractions.

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