

# Measurement of $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ in Associated Production with the CMS Detector

by

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## Abstract

We measured  $VH \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  with the CMS Detector.

Thesis Supervisor: Christoph M. E. Paus

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

One of the most curious features of physics at small scales, which will likely frustrate students for the rest of time, is that certain events are not deterministic and only have a probability of happening. There is no guarantee that an electron and a positron approaching each other at high energies will annihilate and produce a muon and an anti-muon. However, this event might still occur at a later time at with the exact same initial conditions. Furthermore, the observation of resonances, where this is more likely to happen when the electron and positron approach each other at particular speeds, does not mean that a  $Z$  boson was present in a given interaction. It just means that the weak component of the electroweak force significantly increases the probability of the muonic final state, given the total energy of the initial state. The sum of probabilities from different possible field interactions with particular initial conditions is the only thing we can measure. This is also only possible when observing many events with the same initial conditions.

This point is difficult to convey concisely, so many laypeople, as well as some practicing physicists, are confused by the terminology adopted by the field. But this distinction is relevant to the topic of this work. This document presents a measurement of a cross section. Cross section is the name given to the probability of an interaction occurring. Reported cross sections can be split up to describe different contributions to final states, and they can be collated into what are called “production cross sections” which describe the probabilities of particular intermediate states

“occurring” (even though intermediate states never exist in reality).

The main point is that if there exists some interesting particle, and it interacts with other particles, you can see an increased probability of certain initial states resulting in certain final states. This can teach the observer about the role of the interesting particle, without ever directly seeing it.

## 1.1 Measurement of the Higgs Cross Section

The purpose of the following document is to present the methods and results of measuring the strength of the coupling between the Higgs boson and bottom quarks. In this context, the Higgs boson makes up one of the previously mentioned intermediate states that cannot be shown as present in a given event. The cross section measurement relies on a number of physics processes that will be accounted for in this document.

To measure this coupling, the Higgs boson must first be “produced” before measuring its coupling strength to bottom quarks. Since we are not technologically advanced enough to achieve this generation using bottom quarks directly, we use measured Higgs generation rates from normal constituents of protons. We constrain ourselves further by requiring that the Higgs is generated by associated production.

After the Higgs is generated, it can decay into a number of different particles. This work is only concerned with one kind of decay.

The math that this all relies on is presented in Chapter 2.

## 1.2 Motivation for the Measurement

This is Thomas Kuhn’s “normal science”.

Precision measurements are needed to be certain of what we think.

Precision measurements often lead to discrepancies that are explained by a fundamental shift in the model.

The Standard Model is a good one. It will not be fully replaced, but at worst



expanded upon. Just like Newton's Laws are still a reasonable approximation for General Relativity, The Standard Model is a good approximation for most things we have been able to interact with so far.

The only lingering questions are Dark Matter and Dark Energy, but there is no reason to assume that precise measurements of known phenomena will not lead to an explanation.

## 1.3 Historic Context

First, we have The Standard Model.

Parts were proven correct by the observation of the weak bosons.

The Higgs was observed in 2013.

The Higgs decaying to  $b\bar{b}$  was observed in 2018. [1, 2]

## 1.4 Using the CMS Detector

The CMS detector is a general purpose detector used to make many observations of conditions unattainable on Earth outside of the LHC.

It has many stationary parts, and a couple of moving ones too.

This device is described in detail in Chapter 3.



# Chapter 2

## Theory

The Standard Model describes the interactions of all observable matter. There are many textbooks that cover the Standard Model, as there are many scientists and students who study it. For an in depth presentation of the Standard Model beyond what is presented in this chapter, please refer to Reference [3].

Matter is made up of 12 kinds of fermions. The forces between the fermions are mediated by the gauge fields created by the Standard Model's  $SU(3) \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$  symmetry. Fermions with the appropriate charge are affected by the gauge fields. Fermions are classified as quarks or leptons. There are six types of quarks, separated into three generations of two quarks each. Each quark has a color charge associated with the  $SU(3)$  symmetry. The interactions arising from this is called QCD. Each pair of quarks in a family also have an approximate  $SU(2)$  symmetry, which allows interactions via the weak force. Quarks also have a hypercharge, which is a relation of electromagnetic charge and weak isospin, meaning the gauge field from the  $U(1)$  symmetry affects them as well. Three charged leptons and three neutral leptons, called neutrinos, comprise the other six fermions. The leptons do not carry a color charge, so they are not affected by the  $SU(3)$  symmetry, but they do carry weak isospin and hypercharge. Table 2.1 displays the values of these charges for all fermions. Fermions also have anti-particles, which carry the opposite charges of their counterparts.

In the Standard Model, the gauge fields from the  $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$  symmetries are

Table 2.1: All of the fermions are listed below, along with their charges and weak isospin values. The three generations are listed from least to most massive, meaning only the first generation of quarks and charged leptons is stable. The masses and decays of neutrinos is beyond the scope of the Standard Model and this analysis.

	1st gen.	2nd gen.	3rd gen.	Color	$Q$	$I_W^{(3)}$	Y
down-type quarks	$d$	$s$	$b$	yes	$-\frac{1}{3}$	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$-\frac{1}{3}$
up-type quarks	$u$	$c$	$t$	yes	$+\frac{2}{3}$	$+\frac{1}{2}$	$+\frac{5}{3}$
charged leptons	$e$	$\mu$	$\tau$	no	-1	$-\frac{1}{2}$	-1
neutral leptons	$\nu_e$	$\nu_\mu$	$\nu_\tau$	no	0	$+\frac{1}{2}$	-1

mixed into what is known as the electroweak force. The electroweak force is mediated by the neutral photon and  $Z$  boson, and the charged  $W$  boson. This mixing happens due to the Higgs boson, a scalar which grants all of the charged fermions and the  $Z$  and  $W$  bosons mass through interactions.

In associated production, a Higgs boson is created through radiation from the  $Z$  and  $W$  bosons, which are also known as vector bosons. The measurement of  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  in associated production is therefore a measurement of interactions between the Higgs boson and vector bosons and the coupling between the Higgs boson and bottom, or  $b$ , quarks. The generation and observable decay of the vector bosons are also important to make this measurement. The parameters for those interactions are measured more accurately by other analyses not involving an observation of the Higgs [4]. Since the coupling of the Higgs boson with the vector bosons and with fermions also gives rise to the masses of each in the Standard Model through what is called electroweak symmetry breaking or the Higgs mechanism, most discussions of Higgs couplings include an explanation of the Higgs mechanism.

The treatment of these topics in this chapter are arranged as follows. First, I will give a brief explanation of Higgs field's non-zero vacuum energy, a trait that makes the electroweak symmetry breaking possible. After that, the coupling of the Higgs boson to the  $W$  and  $Z$  vector bosons will be described. These interactions arise from a mixing of the weak force with the electromagnetic force. What results is collectively known as the electroweak force. The coupling of the electroweak force to fermions is

then discussed to understand both the generation of the vector boson intermediate states and the resulting final state that can be observed. Finally, the decay of the Higgs boson itself into bottom quarks is explained. This is allowed because the Higgs boson couples directly to massive fermions and gives them mass through the Higgs mechanism.

The Standard model is described by its Lagrangian, which is the difference between a system's kinetic and potential energies. Equations of motion are extracted from a Lagrangian  $\mathcal{L}$  for a particle field  $\phi_i$  using the Euler-Lagrange equations.

$$\delta_\mu \left( \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta(\delta_\mu \phi_i)} \right) - \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \phi_i} = 0 \quad (2.1)$$

Gauge bosons are produced by symmetries of the Lagrangian. The Standard Model has  $SU(3) \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$  symmetry. The  $SU(3)$  symmetry produces gluons which mediate the strong force between quarks [5]. The  $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$  symmetry produces two gauge fields. The first interacts with left handed fermions, and the second interacts with all fermions through their hypercharge,  $Y$ . These forces are ultimately mixed into what is known as the electroweak force due to electroweak symmetry breaking [6]. Electroweak symmetry breaking is the required solution of the problem that vector gauge bosons of the electroweak force had mass. It was not possible to grant these bosons mass while maintaining the symmetries of the Standard Model without the Higgs boson [7–9]. The granting of mass happens for two reasons: the Higgs field has a non-zero vacuum expectation value, and the Higgs field couples directly to vector boson and massive fermion fields.

## 2.1 Electroweak Symmetry Breaking

First, consider the  $SU(2) \times U(1)$  symmetry where the Higgs interacts with the electroweak bosons. The  $L$  and  $Y$  of the  $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$  symmetry can be forgotten for the moment, since they describe fermion interactions with the electroweak force. To

preserve SU(2) symmetry, the Higgs boson is described as two complex scalar fields in a weak isospin doublet with a quartic potential. The SU(2) symmetry means rotations between the doublet states must be equivalent in the Lagrangian. The Lagrangian for a free Higgs is then

$$\mathcal{L} = (\delta_\mu \phi)^\dagger (\delta^\mu \phi) - (\mu^2 (\phi^\dagger \phi) + \lambda (\phi^\dagger \phi)^2) \quad (2.2)$$

Through the virial theorem [10], the potential has a minimum value when

$$\phi^\dagger \phi = \frac{-\mu^2}{2\lambda} = \frac{v^2}{2} \quad (2.3)$$

This potential of the Higgs field breaks the SU(2)  $\times$  U(1) symmetry of the Standard Model Lagrangian. Through this non-zero vacuum expectation value, the Higgs then has a constant influence in other parts of the Standard Model Lagrangian. In this way, it gives mass to electroweak vector bosons, to itself, and to massive fermions.

The first two sets of masses manifest when we force the SU(2)  $\times$  U(1) symmetry back onto the Lagrangian in Equation (2.2). The derivatives must be replaced.

$$\delta_\mu \rightarrow D_\mu = \delta_\mu + i \frac{g_W}{2} \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{W}_\mu + i g' \frac{Y}{2} B_\mu \quad (2.4)$$

To simplify the expansion of Equation (2.2), a particular gauge, or particular doublet state, is chosen.  $\phi$  is written to satisfy the vacuum expectation value of Equation (2.3) in the gauge that will give us the massless neutral boson known as a photon.

$$\phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v + h(x) \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.5)$$

This leads to the following expansion for the kinetic term of the Lagrangian.

$$\begin{aligned} (D_\mu \phi)^\dagger (D^\mu \phi) &= \frac{1}{2} (\delta_\mu h) (\delta^\mu h) + \frac{1}{8} g_W^2 (W_\mu^{(1)} + i W_\mu^{(2)}) (W^{(1)\mu} - i W^{(2)\mu}) (v + h)^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{8} (g_W W_\mu^{(3)} - g' B_\mu) (g_W W^{(3)\mu} - g' B^\mu) (v + h)^2 \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

Terms that are quadratic in terms of the gauge boson fields reveal the mass of the fields. Taking  $h(x) \rightarrow 0$ , the terms for  $W^{(1)}$  and  $W^{(2)}$  are the just

$$\frac{1}{4}g_W^2 v^2 W_\mu^{(1)} W^{(1)\mu} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{4}g_W^2 v^2 W_\mu^{(2)} W^{(2)\mu},$$

giving the mass.

$$m_W = \frac{1}{2}g_W v \tag{2.7}$$

The quadratic terms for  $W^{(3)}$  and  $B$  mix to give a non-diagonal mass matrix  $\mathbf{M}$ .

$$\frac{v^2}{8} \begin{pmatrix} W_\mu^{(3)} & B_\mu \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{M} \begin{pmatrix} W^{(3)\mu} \\ B^\mu \end{pmatrix} = \frac{v^2}{8} \begin{pmatrix} W_\mu^{(3)} & B_\mu \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} g_W^2 & -g_W g' \\ -g_W g' & g'^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} W^{(3)\mu} \\ B^\mu \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.8}$$

The non-diagonal matrix allow  $W^{(3)}$  and  $B$  to mix. Physical states must be represented by a diagonal Hamiltonian. Diagonalizing the term above gives masses of the physical states.

$$\frac{1}{8}v^2 \begin{pmatrix} A_\mu & Z_\mu \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & g_W^2 + g'^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A^\mu \\ Z^\mu \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} A_\mu & Z_\mu \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} m_A^2 & 0 \\ 0 & m_Z^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A^\mu \\ Z^\mu \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.9}$$

This gives us the masses of the neutral gauge bosons.

$$m_A = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad m_Z = \frac{1}{2}v\sqrt{g_W^2 + g'^2} \tag{2.10}$$

From the simple act of requiring  $\text{SU}(2) \times \text{U}(1)$  symmetry on the Lagrangian of a scalar doublet with non-zero vacuum expectation value, the masses of all the electroweak gauge bosons have been produced. A similar procedure will produce the masses of fermions due to their coupling to the electroweak force.

## 2.2 Associated Production

The next thing to consider is the couplings also produced by this process. The couplings will allow us to determine more precisely the parameters above by measuring cross sections.

The physical states of  $W^+$  and  $W^-$  bosons can be written as the raising and lowering operators for isospin.

$$W^\pm = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (W^{(1)} \mp iW^{(2)}) \quad (2.11)$$

The second term of Equation (2.6) can be further expanded.

$$\frac{1}{4}g_W^2 W_\mu^- W^{+\mu} (v+h)^2 = \frac{1}{4}g_W^2 v^2 W_\mu^- W^{+\mu} + \frac{1}{2}g_W^2 v W_\mu^- W^{+\mu} h + \frac{1}{4}g_W^2 W_\mu^- W^{+\mu} h^2 \quad (2.12)$$

The second term on the right hand side of Equation (2.12) gives us the coupling strength of a vertex with a Higgs and two  $W$  bosons.

$$g_{HWW} = \frac{1}{2}g_W^2 v = g_W m_W \quad (2.13)$$

The coupling to the  $Z$  boson can also be found from Equation (2.9) by substituting  $(v+h)^2$  back in for  $v^2$  and extracting the terms proportional to  $hZ_\mu Z^\mu$ .

$$g_{HZZ} = \frac{1}{2} (g_W^2 + g'^2) v = \sqrt{g_W^2 + g'^2} m_Z \quad (2.14)$$

When arranged in a way that the  $W$  or  $Z$  boson radiates the Higgs, as opposed to a Higgs decaying into a pair of  $W$  or  $Z$  bosons, the process is called associated production or *Higgstrahlung*. The vertex showing associated production is pictured in Figure 2-1.





Figure 2-1: Above is the Feynman diagram for associated production. The  $W$  or  $Z$  boson radiates a Higgs boson. Both bosons later decay into particles detected by CMS.

### 2.2.1 Coupling Between Vector Bosons and Fermions

The  $W$  and  $Z$  bosons are themselves intermediate states, never existing in a directly observable manner. They must be produced through interacts with stable fermions. Since the LHC is a hadron collider, considering the vector bosons' couplings with quarks would be most relevant.

Quarks couple to each other through the strong force, resulting from a  $SU(3)$  symmetry. There are three generations of quarks each consisting of a pair of quark types. Their mass eigenstates are denoted as down-type or up-type. A feature of quarks is that their mass eigenstates do not match their weak eigenstates. There is a mixing among the down-type quarks that is parametrized by the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) matrix.

$$\begin{pmatrix} d' \\ s' \\ b' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} V_{ud} & V_{us} & V_{ub} \\ V_{cd} & V_{cs} & V_{cb} \\ V_{td} & V_{ts} & V_{tb} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} d \\ s \\ b \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.15)$$

The mass eigenstates are denoted as  $d, s$ , and  $b$ , while  $d', s'$ , and  $b'$  are the weak eigenstates. This mixing allows quarks to change generations through interaction with  $W^\pm$  bosons, which raise or lower the weak isospin. The following is the charge



Figure 2-2: Above are diagrams for generating  $W^+$  and  $W^-$  bosons. The  $u$  and  $d$  quarks in the diagram can be replaced with any up-type or down-type quark, respectively. The CKM matrix element would in the vertex element would be changed accordingly.

current vertex interaction.

$$-i \frac{g_W}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \bar{u} & \bar{c} & \bar{t} \end{pmatrix} \gamma^\mu \frac{1}{2} (1 - \gamma^5) \begin{pmatrix} V_{ud} & V_{us} & V_{ub} \\ V_{cd} & V_{cs} & V_{cb} \\ V_{td} & V_{ts} & V_{tb} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} d \\ s \\ b \end{pmatrix}$$

The vertices for this interaction is shown in Figure 2-2 arranged in a way to show the processes of generating a  $W^+$  or  $W^-$  boson from annihilating quarks. The  $\gamma$  matrices in the interaction are present because the  $SU(2)$  component of the Standard Model only interacts with left-handed fermions and right-handed anti-fermions. For this reason, the  $SU(2)$  component is more accurately labelled  $SU(2)_L$ . From Equation (2.11), the  $W^\pm$  bosons are completely made up of the  $W^{(1)}$  and  $W^{(2)}$  components of the  $SU(2)_L$ , so they also only interact with left-handed fermions and right-handed anti-fermions.

Both the photon and the  $Z$  boson mix the  $SU(2)_L$  and  $U(1)_Y$  components of the Standard Model. Production of the  $Z$  boson needs to be directly understood for this measurement, but it is more straightforward to determine the strength of the  $Z$  boson couplings to left- and right-handed fermions by exploiting the symmetry of photon interactions. That is, the photon interacts the same with left and right handed charged fermions, and not at all with neutral fermions. This is shown directly

with experiments with leptons. The charged leptons, electrons, muons, and taus, interact with photons, while the respective neutrinos do not. From the mixing in Equation (2.8), the photon and  $Z$  fields can be expressed as the following.

$$A_\mu = B_\mu \cos \theta_W + W_\mu^{(3)} \sin \theta_W \quad (2.16)$$

$$Z_\mu = -B_\mu \sin \theta_W + W_\mu^{(3)} \cos \theta_W \quad (2.17)$$

$\theta_W$  is known as the weak mixing angle. The relative strengths of the  $B$  and  $W^{(3)}$  couplings are determined directly through lepton electro-magnetic characteristics, keeping in mind that  $W^{(3)}$  only interacts with left handed particles. The following are the electro-magnetic interaction strengths of left- and right-handed electrons and neutrinos.

$$e_L : \quad Qe = \frac{1}{2}g'Y_{e_L} \cos \theta_W - \frac{1}{2}g_W \sin \theta_W \quad (2.18)$$

$$\nu_L : \quad 0 = \frac{1}{2}g'Y_{\nu_L} \cos \theta_W - \frac{1}{2}g_W \sin \theta_W \quad (2.19)$$

$$e_R : \quad Qe = \frac{1}{2}g'Y_{e_R} \cos \theta_W \quad (2.20)$$

$$\nu_R : \quad 0 = \frac{1}{2}g'Y_{\nu_R} \cos \theta_W \quad (2.21)$$

$Y_{e_L}$  and  $Y_{\nu_L}$  must be equal to maintain  $SU(2)_L$  symmetry. To satisfy these constraints, the follow definition of  $Y$  is needed.

$$Y = 2 \left( Q - I_W^{(3)} \right) \quad (2.22)$$

The following relationship also arises from these experimental constraints.

$$e = g_W \sin \theta_W = g' \cos \theta_W \quad (2.23)$$

Returning to the  $Z$  boson, from Equation (2.17), and defining

$$g_Z = \frac{e}{\sin \theta_W \cos \theta_W}, \quad (2.24)$$



Figure 2-3: Above are diagrams for generating  $Z$  bosons. Left- and right-handed fermions are both coupled to, but with different coupling strengths.

we have the following couplings to left- and right-handed fermions.

$$-\frac{1}{2}g' \sin \theta_W (Y_{f_L} \bar{u}_L \gamma^\mu u_L + Y_{f_R} \bar{u}_R \gamma^\mu u_R) + I_W^{(3)} g_W \cos \theta_W (\bar{u}_L \gamma^\mu u_L) =$$

$$g_Z ((I^{(3)} - Q \sin^2 \theta_W) \bar{u}_L \gamma^\mu u_L - Q \sin^2 \theta_W \bar{u}_R \gamma^\mu u_R) \quad (2.25)$$

Now the coupling of the  $Z$  to left- and right-handed quarks can be calculated from Table 2.1, remembering that  $I_W^{(3)}$  for right-handed fermions is 0. Diagrams showing the interaction strengths of fermion- $Z$  vertices are shown in Figure 2-3.

Thus vector bosons couple to quarks, the constituents of hadrons, which means they can be produced at the LHC. As mentioned earlier in this section, quarks interact through an  $SU(3)$  symmetry that results in the strong force. The three states that this symmetry supports are known as color states, and they are labelled red, green, and blue, or  $r$ ,  $g$ , and  $b$ . There are also anti-states for each color state, labelled  $\bar{r}$ ,  $\bar{g}$ , and  $\bar{b}$ . The resulting gauge bosons are known as gluons, and they carry the following color states.

$$r\bar{g}, g\bar{r}, r\bar{b}, b\bar{r}, g\bar{b}, b\bar{g}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(r\bar{r} - g\bar{g}) \text{ and } \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(r\bar{r} + g\bar{g} - 2b\bar{b})$$

Since gluons carry color charge, they interact with other gluons. As the distance between two color-charged particles grows, the energy density of the self-interacting gluon field remains constant. It soon becomes energetically favorable for new a

particle/anti-particle pair to pop into existence if it simultaneously reduces the distance that the strong force is interacting. As a result, all observable hadronic states are color singlets. The most common hadronic states are mesons, made of a quark/anti-quark pair with the color singlet state

$$\psi(q\bar{q}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(r\bar{r} + g\bar{g} + b\bar{b}), \quad (2.26)$$

and baryons, made of three quarks with the following color singlet state.

$$\psi(qqq) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(rgb - rbg + gbrgrb + brg - bgr) \quad (2.27)$$

Baryons can also be composed of three anti-quarks, which has a state corresponding to Equation (2.27), but with anti-color.

For this measurement, protons are collided at the LHC. The proton consists of two  $u$  quarks, and one  $d$  quark. Since the three quarks inside the proton interact strongly, there are also many virtual gluons and quark/anti-quark pairs present at all times. The quantity and energies of all these partons are not able to be calculated since QCD is non-perturbative. They can be measured in deep inelastic scattering experiments though. In these, electrons are scattered off of protons, and parton distribution functions (PDFs) can be measured. The PDFs for protons are shown in Figure 2-4.

Combining the known proton energy, PDFs, the CKM matrix, and the theory of the electroweak force, we can predict the cross section of generating  $W$  and  $Z$  bosons at the LHC. These initial vector bosons will be off-shell, which means they will have a mass much different than the resonance peak. Then they will radiate a Higgs in order to most commonly produce an on-shell vector boson and on-shell Higgs boson. The cross section of generating off-shell particles are suppressed according to the required center-of-mass energy,  $E$ , and the resonance mass  $M$ . The suppression is in the form



Figure 2-4: The Parton Distribution Function for protons is shown above. Most of the proton's momentum is carried by  $u$  and  $d$  quarks, but virtual  $s$  quarks as well as gluons can also interact with particles passing through the proton.

of the relativistic Breit-Wigner formula.

$$f(E) = \frac{k}{(E^2 - M^2)^2 + M^2\Gamma^2} \quad (2.28)$$

This associated production is one of three production mechanisms of the Higgs Boson. The other two are gluon fusion, where gluons form a top loop, and vector boson fusion, both shown in Figure 2-5. In these other two production mechanisms, only the Higgs is in the final state. These events can only offer additional identification through initial state radiation. In contrast, associated production also results in leptons from the vector boson decay, which allow for tighter selection criteria for event identification.

### 2.2.2 Decay Channels of Vector Bosons

Due to the couplings described in Section 2.2.1, the vector bosons decay into quarks. However, in the hadronic environment produced at the LHC these are not the best indicators of a vector boson intermediate state. This measurement uses leptonic decays in the final state since they are easier to identify and separate from background processes.

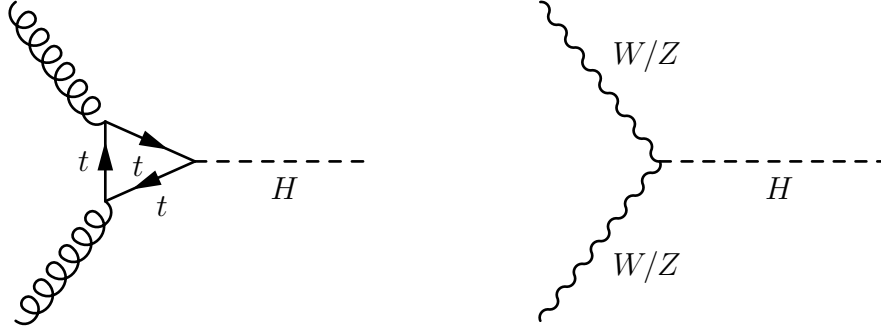


Figure 2-5: Above are the Feynman diagrams for other production mechanisms of the Higgs boson. Gluon fusion is shown on the left, and vector boson fusion is shown on the right.

There are three generations of leptons. Each generation consists of a charged lepton, and a neutral lepton, also referred to as a neutrino. The left-handed charged lepton and neutrino of each generation form an electroweak  $SU(2)_L$  doublet. In order of increasing mass, the three generations are called electron, muon, and tau. Heavier charged leptons decay into lighter leptons via the weak force. Two neutrinos result from this decay, as shown in Figure 2-6, making the characteristics of the parent lepton's parent difficult to reconstruct. The tau lepton has a short enough lifetime to consistently decay before reaching the CMS detector. The tau lepton is also massive enough to also decay into quarks, making its measurement even more complicated. Muons have an average lifetime long enough to penetrate the entire detector, and electrons are stable particles. As a result, only final states with muons and electrons are considered in this analysis. The Feynman diagrams for the decay channels of interest are shown in Figure 2-7.

## 2.3 Decay Channels of the Higgs

What we are ultimately interested in measuring is the contribution of the Higgs intermediate state to the final state of  $b\bar{b}$ . Since the Higgs is a  $SU(2)_L$  doublet of scalar fields, the term  $-g_f(\bar{L}\phi R + \bar{R}\phi^\dagger L)$  in the Standard Model Lagrangian is invariant under  $SU(2)_L \times SU(1)_Y$ , where  $L$  is a left-handed fermion doublet, and



Figure 2-6: Heavier leptons can decay to lighter leptons while emitting two neutrinos. Above is an example of a decay of  $\tau \rightarrow \nu_\tau \mu \bar{\nu}_\mu$ .



Figure 2-7: Above are the three different vector boson decays we are interested in.  $\tau$  decays do also contribute to the charged lepton final states as seen by a detector, but the energy carried away by neutrinos significantly reduces those decay modes' contribution to the accepted states.



$R$  is a right-handed singlet. If the Higgs doublet is expanded around the vacuum expectation value, as Equation (2.5), the Lagrangian term becomes the following.

$$\mathcal{L}_f = -\frac{g_f}{\sqrt{2}}v(\bar{f}_L f_R + \bar{f}_R f_L) - \frac{g_f}{\sqrt{2}}h(\bar{f}_L f_R + \bar{f}_R f_L) \quad (2.29)$$

In Equation (2.29),  $f$  refers to the lower field of the fermion's  $SU(2)_L$  doublet. The Lagrangian also includes terms for the upper field since the conjugate of  $\phi$  has the same symmetries as  $\phi$ .

The Lagrangian showing fermion-Higgs interactions in Equation (2.29) consists of two terms. Since  $v$  is constant, the first term is consistent with a fermion's mass, assuming an appropriate coupling constant.

$$g_f = \sqrt{2}\frac{m_f}{v} \quad (2.30)$$

The second term is the coupling of the fermion to the Higgs field with the same coupling constant. This is the mechanism by which the Higgs give fermions their masses, and also why the Higgs couples more strongly to massive particles. The Feynman rule for the interaction vertex between the Higgs and fermions is proportional to the fermion's mass. Of the quarks, the  $b$  quark is the second most massive. The most massive  $t$  quark is too massive to be the final decay product of an on-shell Higgs. The required off-shell Higgs would need a center of mass energy,  $E$ , at least 350 GeV, and the cross section for this production drops off as the tail of a relativistic Breit-Wigner function in Equation (2.28) with a mass  $M$  of 125 GeV. The Higgs can also decay to two vector bosons. In this case, instead of requiring the Higgs to be off-shell, one of the unstable vector bosons can be less massive than its resonance mass. However, this still results cross section suppression in the form of Equation (2.28).

As the decay mode with the highest coupling requiring no off-shell particles, the predicted branching ratio of  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  is 57.8%. Therefore, measuring  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  is the most direct measurement to confirm this theory of quark masses. The diagram for this decay can be combined with the Feynman diagrams in Figure 2-1, Figure 2-2 or 2-3, and one of the decays in Figure 2-7 in order to generate the full Feynman



Figure 2-8: Above is the full Feynman diagram for  $ZH \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^- b \bar{b}$ .

diagrams for the processes being measured in this analysis. One such full diagram is shown in Figure 2-8.

# Chapter 3

## The CMS Detector

The Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector, located at the LHC, consists of multiple sub-detectors. Ideally, time could be saved for the dedicated reader by only detailing the parts of the detector that are relevant for the analysis presented in this work. Unfortunately, a characteristic of hadron collider measurements is that almost all sub-systems of the detector are used to make the final measurement.

A brief overview of all the detector subsystems are therefore presented in this chapter. More can be learned about the design and motivations for the detector in the TDR [11]. Information presented on the physical CMS design parameters are taken directly from that document unless otherwise noted.

### 3.1 Associated Production at the LHC

The CMS detector only observes events. Before describing the devices that are used to observe and record events, the method of generating interesting events must be described. The CMS detector is located at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). Described in detail in multiple publications [12], a brief description is given here.

The LHC, with a circumference of 26.7 km, is large enough to be considered located in multiple towns and countries, but it will suffice to say it is near Geneva, Switzerland at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), the main campus of which is addressed in Meyrin, Switzerland. This campus itself also spans

the border between Switzerland and France. This large circumference is needed since charged particles traveling in a circular path with radius  $r$  emit synchrotron radiation at the following rate.

$$P = \frac{q^2 p^4}{6\pi\epsilon_0 m^4 c^5 r^2} \quad (3.1)$$

The amount of power lost by the particles decreases quadratically with the size of the collider. In addition, the energy lost decreases with the mass of the accelerated particles to the fourth power. The LHC was built in the same tunnels that were used for LEP, which was a collider for electrons and positrons that took much of its data at  $\sqrt{s} = 98 \text{ GeV}$ . The resulting LHC is designed to collide protons at energies of  $\sqrt{s} = 14 \text{ TeV}$ , with the data for this analysis taken at  $13 \text{ TeV}$ . Though Figure 2-4 showed that not all of the energy from each proton goes into the interaction, there still is adequate phase space available to generate the massive off-shell vector bosons that are needed for *Higgstrahlung*, via the mechanisms described in Section 2.2.1.

The removal of a quark from one proton and an anti-quark from the other leads to two non-color-singlet states in close proximity to each other. The resulting spray of hadronic particles generated from the vacuum to restore color singlets are called jets. The detectors are designed to distinguish these jets from more interesting decay products in the interaction.

The luminosity of the LHC is given by the following formula.

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{N_B^2 f_{\text{rev}} k_B}{4\pi B^* \epsilon_{xy}} \times F \quad (3.2)$$

$N_B$  is the number of protons per bunch,  $f_{\text{rev}}$  is the frequency of beam revolutions,  $k_B$  is the number of bunches per beam,  $B^*$  and  $\epsilon_{xy}$  describe the goodness of the beam, and  $F$  is a geometric collision factor.

$$F = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{(\sigma_s \tan \phi)^2}{\epsilon_{xy} \beta^*}}} \quad (3.3)$$

$\sigma_s$  is the length of each bunch, and  $\phi$  is the crossing angle. In order to generate a

large amount of data needed for measurements like associated production, the LHC operates at a high frequency of collisions, and generates many simultaneous collisions. For Run 2, there is a proton bunch crossing every 25 ns. The CMS detector must be able to read out and process data on that timescale. Each proton bunch includes over 100 billion protons [13].

## 3.2 Detector Requirements

One configuration of possible final state particles is shown in Figure 2-8. There, two oppositely charged leptons and two  $b$  quarks are the end decay products. The  $b$  quarks also hadronize form color singlets well before reaching the detector, but the resulting jets can actually be distinguished well from the jets resulting from the fragmenting protons.

Hadrons containing  $b$  quarks decay through the weak force since they require a flavor change. As mentioned before, the CKM matrix in Equation 2.15 quantifies the mixing between the different quark flavors. The value of  $V_{tb}$  is close to unity, and since the CKM matrix is unitary,  $V_{cb}$  and  $V_{ub}$  are small. This means the matrix element weak decays of the  $b$  hadrons is small. This is the only decay channel available to the lightest  $b$  hadrons, so their lifetimes are relatively long. The delayed decay results in a jet with a secondary vertex where many of its particles are generated from the vacuum at a distance from the initial collision point.

Alternate signatures of interest can be seen by substituting other vector boson final states from Figure 2-7. In these, there may be one or zero charged leptons, with one or two neutral leptons, respectively. Neutral particles are difficult to detect, with neutral leptons being capable of passing through the entire Earth without being part of a detectable interaction. The CMS detector therefore ignores the neutrinos, but their presence can still be inferred. Even with the variation in momentum along the beam direction, all partons in each proton have approximately zero momentum in the transverse direction. Therefore, the sum of the transverse momenta of all final state particles must also be zero. Many events in CMS have an overall imbalance in

the transverse plane. This imbalance is labelled Missing Transverse Energy,  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ , or MET. Large MET in an event is often a sign of high energy neutrinos that the detector cannot detect.

We need to identify all of these interesting particles, as well as be able to reconstruct missing transverse momentum. In addition, the additional hadronic activity in the event, called pileup, must be mitigated. The energy of the decay products have energies on the scale of the masses of the parent particles. The detector must be capable of measuring jets and leptons with energies on the order of 10s or 100s of GeV. Better energy resolution for each of these decay products allows better separation of our signal process from background processes that generate very similar final states.

### 3.3 Detector Design

The CMS detector as a whole has cylindrical symmetry around the beam access. It is 21 meters long and 15 meters in diameter. There are gaps at either end to allow the beam, but otherwise tries to cover the full solid angle around the collision point. The azimuthal angle of a particle relative to the beam axis is described by pseudorapidity,  $\eta$ .

$$\eta = -\ln \left[ \tan \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \right] \quad (3.4)$$

The barrel portion of CMS can detect particles with  $|\eta| < 2.4$ , while the forward caps of the detector can reach  $|\eta| < 5.0$ .

Different technologies are better for measuring the energy or other kinematics variables of different particles. As a result, the CMS detector is made up of different sub-detector systems, arranged in cylindrical layers. Each layer consists of a “barrel” portion and two endcaps on either side.

The innermost layer is designed to extrapolate the tracks of charged particles back to their point of origin. This is called the Silicon Pixel Detector. The next layer is designed to measure the energies of photons and electrons. The third layer



Figure 3-1: A slice of the CMS detector is shown above [14]. The four detector layers are labelled and show the penetration depths of various particles stable enough to travel a measureable distance.

measures the energies of both charged and neutral hadrons. Outside of these three layers is a superconducting solenoid, which generates a magnetic field for the entire detector. On the very outside of the detector are gas chambers designed to detect muons interspersed with the iron return yoke for the solenoid. A slice of the CMS detector showing the relative positions of each layer is shown in Figure 3-1.

The magnet is described first since the magnetic field it produces is a key part of most of the rest of the detector. After that, the sub-detectors are summarized in the order of closest to farthest from the beamline, since this is the order that particles would interact with the layers. Each sub-detector section also describes the measured performance during Run 2. Note that this measurement is an iterative process that depends on the event reconstruction described in Section 3.4, which in turn depends on the performance of the entire detector. The performance numbers are presented with each sub-detector design though so that it is immediately clear how effective each design has been.

### 3.3.1 Solenoid Magnet

Part of the CMS acronym acknowledges the role of the solenoid magnet. The presence of a magnetic field is necessary for accurate measurements of charged particles passing through the silicon pixel detector and muon chambers.

The magnetic field generated is designed to cause the path of a muon with 1 TeV of energy to bend enough to have a momentum resolution of 10%. Inside the solenoid, the magnetic field reaches 4 T, with a return field that is large enough to cause muon tracks to curve throughout the muon chambers outside the magnet.

A super-conducting solenoid enables the creation of a magnetic field with the required strength. A current of 19.5 kA is sent through 2168 turns over 12.9 m. The magnetic field stores 2.7 GJ of energy. In order to hold this, the structural components holding the magnet and the detector in place are strong enough to withstand 64 atm of hoop pressure.

### 3.3.2 Silicon Pixel Detector

The layer closest to the beamline is designed to obtain a precise track pointing to the origin of particles passing into the detector. It is made up of layers of many small pixels to do this. As distance from the interaction point increases, the pixel size also increases.

The innermost three layers, with the closest layer being a distance of  $r = 4$  cm from the interaction point, are made of hybrid pixel detectors. Each pixel has dimensions of  $100 \times 150 \mu\text{m}$ . At this size, only one out of every ten thousand inner layer pixels is triggered in a typical LHC bunch crossing. Outside of the pixel detector layers, silicon strip detectors are used. These are placed in the region that is  $20 < r < 55$  cm from the beamline. Strip dimensions give a cell size of approximately  $10 \text{ cm} \times 80 \mu\text{m}$ . 2–3% of cells are activated during a typical bunch crossing. The outermost layers are made of larger strips with cell sizes of  $25 \text{ cm} \times 180 \mu\text{m}$ . About 1% of these pixels are triggered each bunch crossing.

The active material of the silicon pixel detector is semi-conducting silicon. When



charged particles pass through, electron-hole pairs are generated and drift apart due to a bias voltage. The voltage change when these pairs reach their respective electrodes indicates a charged particle passed through. Because of this, the silicon pixel detector cannot detect any neutral particles, but it gives a point of origin for charged particles that is accurate enough to identify pileup.

In the beginning of 2017, the pixel detector was upgraded to handle the higher radiation environment of Run 2 [15]. A layer was added to both the barrel and endcap sections of the pixel detector. Firmware was also upgraded to keep the pixel detector operating at a frequency higher than the Run 2 collision frequency. With this upgrade, the detector operated with a 97% hit efficiency for all layers at the highest instantaneous luminosity. Layers beyond the first performed with greater than 99% hit efficiency [16].

### 3.3.3 Electromagnetic Calorimeter

The next layer of the detector is called the Electromagnetic Calorimeter or ECAL. This layer is designed to fully capture and measure the energy of photons and electrons. The ECAL is made of crystals of the scintillating material Lead Tungstate ( $\text{PbWO}_4$ ). Each crystal is placed in the detector so that its smallest face is facing the collision point. These small faces have dimensions of  $22 \times 22$  mm. The length of each crystal is 230 mm, and the far face is slightly larger at  $26 \times 26$  mm.  $\text{PbWO}_4$  has a radiation length of  $\chi_0 = 8.9$  mm and a Moliere radius of 21 mm. This means each crystal is 25.8 radiation lengths, containing the full shower within the ECAL, and each shower is also localized to within one crystal from the initial ionization.

The scintillating properties of  $\text{PbWO}_4$  are also desirable for observing LHC collisions. 4.5 photons for every MeV of deposited energy are ultimately detected by the photodiodes at the far end of the crystals. This is a low number for most experiments, but the only photons and electrons of interest in this measurement deposit at least 10s of GeV of energy. This gives the ECAL energy resolutions in the range of 5 – 10%. More importantly, the scintillation is very fast. 80% of the light from an interaction is emitted within the 25 ns between bunch crossings, making it easy to associate the

readouts with the appropriate collision.

During the operation of the CMS, the ECAL crystals are damaged by radiation. Some recovery occurs as the crystal structure falls back into the ground state, but over time, the performance of the crystals degrade. That degradation happens at different rates in different areas of the detector. Lasers are used to calibrate the ECAL online during the gaps between beams [17]. Resolution is measured by looking at  $Z \rightarrow ee$  events. For Run 2, the barrel region of the ECAL performed with 1.6% resolution, and the other regions had a 5% resolution [18].

### 3.3.4 Hadronic Calorimeter

The Hadronic Calorimeter (HCAL) has the same goal as the ECAL, where it contains particles and measures the energy emitted by them. However, it tries to do this for hadrons, such as protons, neutrons, and stable mesons. Since hadrons are much more massive than electrons, the ionizing collisions in a typical scintillator does not slow them down enough to contain them. Instead, they must interact via nuclear collisions to be attenuated. CMS uses brass for its HCAL due to its relatively short interaction length, the fact that it is non-magnetic, and its affordability.

The barrel of the HCAL is jacketed in stainless steel for structural support. This layer is 61 mm on the layer immediately next to the ECAL and 75 mm thick on the outer edge. The inside of the HCAL consists of brass absorber plates interspersed with plastic scintillator tiles. The layers closer to the beamline alternate 50.5 mm brass plates with 3.7 mm scintillator plates. Farther away, the brass plates are instead 56.5 mm thick. Wavelength shifting fibers are run through the scintillator tiles to allow photons to travel to the outside of the HCAL where they are detected by photodiodes.

The HCAL performance also degrades as it is exposed to radiation, like the ECAL in Section 3.3.3. The calibration for HCAL is performed using an embedded radioactive source, lasers and LEDs, and an *in situ* calibration using assumed symmetry in  $\phi$ . With these methods, a response within 3.4% was maintained in the HCAL barrel and within 2.6% in the HCAL endcap [19].

### 3.3.5 Muon Chambers

Muons are the most penetrative particles that CMS attempts to detect. They are heavier than electrons, so they are not stopped in the ECAL. They do not interact via the strong nuclear force, so the high density of the HCAL also does not cause measurable interactions. Instead of stopping and measuring muons in calorimeters, CMS tracks their trajectory with both the pixel detectors on the inside of the detector and the muon chambers that make up the outer layer of the detector.

This is the only sub-detector system outside of the solenoid, but the returning magnetic field is still present, allowing the momentum of the muons to be extracted from the curvature of their trajectory. Layers of muon chambers act much like the pixel detectors, but at a larger and more distant scale. The muon chambers in the barrel region of  $|\eta| < 1.2$  consist of drift tube chambers. In the endcaps, cathode strip chambers are used. The difference is to account for higher neutron backgrounds in the endcap, as well as a greater magnetic field. In both regions, resistive plate chambers are spaced between the layers of the other muon chambers.

The muon detectors were triggered above 90% of the time a muon passed through. The overall efficiency of the muon trigger, which relies heavily on the muon system and is described in more detail in Section 3.5, increases as a function of muon  $p_T$  and plateaus around 90% efficiency. The timing of the muon system assigns 1% of muons to the wrong event [20].

## 3.4 Event Reconstruction

Event reconstruction is done using a combination of tracks and calorimeter deposits. These are then linked across the different detector components to identify particles. This overview is taken largely from reference [21]. An interested reader can find more details there.

### 3.4.1 Charged Particle Tracks

Both the Silicon Pixel Detector and the Muon Chambers are designed for charged particles to leave tracks. In both sub-detectors, the basic steps for track reconstruction are the same. First, a track must be seeded. Usually, this is done by finding hits in consecutive layers that are consistent with a particle coming from the beamline. A Kalman Filter is then used to find hits in the other layers of the appropriate sub-detector that are consistent with the initial seed. Once more hits have been found, a fit is performed for the precise trajectory of the track.

Tracks are kept or discarded based on the number of layers that are missing hits and on the momentum of a charged track in the magnetic field of the solenoid. Making these parameters looser results in better recovery of tracks, but the high activity within the detector results in a combinatorial background. This background increases exponentially when the momentum cut is reduced, for example. To help reduce this background, tracks with missing hits use an iterative fit. Different seeds are found for each track to make sure that the resulting collections of hits remain the same.

Additional complications arise for each the pixel and muon detectors. The Silicon Pixel Detector is the only tracking detector that deals with electrons. Because of their small mass, electrons are likely to radiate energy while travelling through the magnetic field of CMS. This leads to complications in the calorimeters described in Section 3.4.2. It also means that the radius of curvature of an electron track can decrease appreciably within the pixel detector. This can lead to the Kalman Filter approach missing tracks entirely, depending on the number of hits required. Tracks with a large  $\chi^2$  and a certain number of hits are fit again using a Gaussian-Sum Filter (GSF). The GSF allows for fitting tracks that have significant energy loss, recovering electron and positron tracks.

A change of trajectory may also happen in the muon chambers, but this is due to multiple scattering in the return yoke. No specialized tracking algorithm is used to account for it. The muon tracking performs best when the tracks in the muon

chambers are successfully linked to a track in the pixel detector. The most common backgrounds in the muon chambers is caused when hadrons manage to punch through the HCAL. This can often be mitigated by considering the amount of energy deposited along the particle track in the other sub-detector systems.

### 3.4.2 Calorimeters

Clusters are identified in calorimeters, also using a seeding algorithm. First clusters with a large energy deposit are identified, and then nearby crystals are checked against noise thresholds. The energy deposition is assumed to have a Gaussian profile, and so a fit is performed to show that there are not multiple deposits in the same region of the calorimeter.

As mentioned in Section 3.3.3, the dimensions of the ECAL crystals are comparable to the Moliere radius, keeping clusters localized. Although a complication arises due to the bremsstrahlung from electrons that also leads to the need for using GSF to find tracks. Superclusters that are linked to electrons have a larger allowed range over  $\phi$  to account for this. Photons are still well behaved within the ECAL, and the ECAL is therefore calibrated for photon deposits.

The calibration of HCAL is complicated by the fact that particles reaching it have to first pass through the ECAL. Initial calibration was done with a 50 GeV pion test beam, but the actual response is non-linear in energy as well as different for charged and neutral particles. Reasons for this difficulty include particles losing energy in the region between the ECAL and the HCAL, in addition to the energy lost in the ECAL. Therefore, there are calibration coefficients that are used depending on if the energy deposits are all in the HCAL, or in preceding sub-detectors as well.

### 3.4.3 Linking and Particle Identification

An important step in making sense of the various sub-detector readouts is linking tracks to calorimeter clusters. The general procedure is to extrapolate tracks from the inner tracker out to each calorimeter. A shower that originates within one radiation

or interaction length in the calorimeter along that track is linked with the track.

The bremsstrahlung from GSF electrons is linked to the track by looking along track tangents. A dedicated conversion finder is used to identify pair production within the pixel detector caused by either bremsstrahlung or prompt photons in order to not mistakenly link a charged particle track with what should otherwise be measured as a photon. This step, in addition to some ECAL clusters that do not have a track make it possible to identify isolated photons. On the other hand, it is still difficult to determine whether an electron track is well isolated or not. The large number of variables that go into identifying an electron leads to the training of a Boosted Decision Tree (BDT) to identify an electron. Separate BDTs are needed for the barrel and endcap regions of the detector.

For accurate HCAL readings, the linking algorithm also ECAL clusters and HCAL clusters along a path. These may not always be along a charged particle track. Multiple calorimeter links of this nature may be found, but only a single link is kept based on a distance assigned to each link. HCAL hits without a track are identified as neutral hadrons. HCAL hits with a linked track are likely charged hadrons. Though the ECAL clusters must be linked in order to determine the energy coefficient to calibrate the HCAL, ECAL hits without tracks are still identified as photons since photons carry some of the energy of jets.

Of particular interest to this analysis is also the secondary vertex step of linking. Charged particle tracks that do not go back to the interaction vertex are linked together if they share a common secondary vertex. These tracks must have an invariant mass of greater than  $0.2\text{ GeV}$  to be kept. There must also be a track from the secondary vertex to the primary vertex, which would belong to a long-lived hadron. As mentioned in Section 3.2, this is the signature of a  $b$  jet. It is possible, however, that the secondary vertex is generated by a nuclear scattering within the pixel detector, so additional analysis is needed for each secondary vertex.

The final link is made between tracks in the muon chambers and tracks in the inner tracker. Muons are identified as tracker muons if they only leave tracks in the inner tracker. This can often happen with low energy muons. They are called standalone

muons when only the track in the muon chamber is identified. When tracks are successfully linked in both sub-detectors, the resulting reconstructed particle is called a global muon. When a global muon is not well-isolated from other energy deposits, it must have tighter requirements on how it behaves in the muon chambers. This is to prevent energy from a jet from being attributed to a muon or vice versa. This is important for  $b$  jets since the decay that happens at a displaced vertex is a decay through the weak nuclear force.

## 3.5 Trigger

Collisions happen every 25 ns, corresponding to a frequency of 400 MHz. The amount of data that the detector generates at each collision is too large to store all of it at this frequency. Luckily, most collisions result in uninteresting data. A trigger system is used to identify interesting events and reduce the frequency of event writing to 1 kHz. This is done using two stages. The Level-1 (L1) trigger passes events with a frequency of 100 kHz, and the High Level Trigger (HLT) picks from the remaining events with a frequency of 1 kHz [22].

The L1 trigger is implemented in hardware. It was upgraded for Run 2 of the LHC to run on FPGAs on an Advanced Mezzanine Card. There are two main components of the L1 trigger. One considers calorimeter deposits, and the other examines the muon chambers. The overall L1 trigger fires when there are high energy, resolved calorimeter hits or if a possible muon is reconstructed. Due to the flexibility of FPGAs, the exact conditions of the firing are configurable [23].

After the L1 is fired, the data is sent to the High-Level Trigger (HLT), which is a computing farm that makes a final decision on whether or not to save the data using a rough event reconstruction. The use of 30,000 cores in the HLT allows for buffering data so the HLT has plenty of time to make this decision [24].

For this analysis, only a few of the possible HLT paths are of interest. The exact trigger names are given in Chapter 5, but for the most part, they only depend on three different identifiable objects. Figures 2-7 and 2-8 show the different final states

of interest.  $b$  jets are difficult to identify quickly since we must rely on the pixel detector's reconstruction of the secondary vertex, but the decay mode of the vector boson can be used for the trigger. In that case, only events with one of the following are worth saving and examining for  $VH \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ .

- ECAL deposits consistent with a high  $p_T$  electron
- muon chamber hits consistent with a high  $p_T$  muon
- an overall energy imbalance consistent with MET from neutrinos

For the specific decay channel in Figure 2-8, the HLT also includes paths where two electrons or two muons are identified.

## 3.6 Accessing Data

The final important piece of the CMS detector is its offline computing resources.

Tier-1 sites typically provide 30,000 CPU cores, while Tier-2 sites provide another 60,000 [25].



# Chapter 4

## Simulation

### 4.1 Backgrounds to the Analysis

In order to effectively measure Higgs production, we need to be able to accurately estimate other events that end up in our selection. To get started, a loose understanding of

### 4.2 Event Generation

We use different generators.

Details in Appendix D.

#### 4.2.1 Tree Level Simulation

#### 4.2.2 Parton Showers

### 4.3 Detector Simulation

### 4.4 Corrections to Simulation

#### 4.4.1 Smearing

Muons

Electrons

Jets

# Chapter 5

## Event Selection

Since Chapter 2, a picture of the overall event topology of interest has been depicted. Until now, the description of the events have been vague. This chapter gives the specific cuts used to identify each particle and to reject or otherwise classify events. First, objects will be defined in terms of reconstructed variables. Then common cuts used to reject events are given. After that, cuts used to classify events into different decay channels are specified. This chapter ends with the differentiation between events where the Higgs decay products can be resolved as separate jets and where they are merged into a single massive jet.

### 5.1 Object Definitions

Section 3.4 describes how detector responses are linked to possible physical particles. Most of the particle ID techniques described so far also give false positives. What follows are tighter selections used in order to reduce these backgrounds. Once objects are defined, they can be counted for event classification.

Each type of particle generally has a method of pre-selection and additional cuts for a selection. For these objects, pre-selection often means that the object is defined well enough to veto events in categories that don't want the object to exist. The additional cuts are required for an event to classify as a category that wants the object to exist with reduced false positives.

### 5.1.1 Variable Definitions

Many of the object definitions use variables that have not been defined yet. They can be understood in terms of the reconstruction described in Section 3.4.

Lepton isolation is quantified using the following formula.

$$I = \frac{1}{p_T^\ell} \left( \sum p_T^{\text{charged}} + \max \left[ 0, \sum p_T^{\text{neutral}} + \sum p_T^\gamma - p_T^{\text{PU}} \right] \right) \quad (5.1)$$

The sums are over charged hadrons originating from the primary vertex and all neutral hadrons and photons within a distance of  $\Delta R < 0.4$  from the lepton if it is a muon, or  $\Delta R < 0.3$  from an electron.  $\Delta R$  is a distance used in the  $(\eta, \phi)$  plane.

$$\Delta R = \sqrt{\Delta\eta^2 + \Delta\phi^2} \quad (5.2)$$

The term  $p_T^{\text{PU}}$  is defined as the following for muons.

$$p_T^{\text{PU}} = 0.5 \times \sum_i p_T^{\text{PU},i} \quad (5.3)$$

$i$  refers to charged hadrons that do not originate from the primary vertex. Electrons use the following definition.

$$p_T^{\text{PU}} = \rho \times A_{\text{eff}} \quad (5.4)$$

$A_{\text{eff}}$  is the area of the isolation cone, and  $\rho$  is the median of the  $p_T$  density of neutral particles in that area.

Particles can also be defined as coming from the primary vertex of an event or from pileup. Vertices are defined through deterministic annealing [26], using the closest approach of tracks to the beamline [27]. The primary vertex is the vertex with the greatest sum of  $E_T$  of the charged particles originating from it. After identification of the primary vertex, charged particles are classified as originating from the primary vertex or as pileup using their extrapolated track's distance in the transverse plane,  $d_{xy}$  and distance along the beamline,  $d_z$ .

### 5.1.2 Muons

An isolated muon gives one of the cleanest signatures in CMS, with only perhaps the exception of an isolated photon that does not undergo pair production in the pixel tracker. Muons can also show up in jets from weakly decaying hadrons, in which case they are not isolated. Since weakly decaying  $b$  jets are central to this analysis, events with non-isolated leptons are not rejected, but the distinction is important.

Pre-selected muons must meet the following requirements.

- The muon must have a relatively high energy of  $p_T > 5 \text{ GeV}$ .
- The muon should be located in the barrel within  $|\eta| < 2.4$ .
- The muon originates from the primary vertex, satisfying both  $d_{xy} < 0.5 \text{ cm}$  and  $d_z < 1.0 \text{ cm}$ .
- The muon must pass a loose isolation cut of  $I < 0.4$ .
- The muon must be a PF muon.
- The muon is either a global muon or a tracker muon.

Fully selected muons have some additional cuts they must pass.

- They must have a higher transverse momentum at  $p_T > 25 \text{ GeV}$ . In events with two muons, such as caused by  $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$ , the second muon can pass the slightly looser cut of  $p_T > 15 \text{ GeV}$ .
- The muon must be a global muon, leaving tracks in both the central tracker and the muon chambers.
- There must be more than five hits in the inner tracker with one hit on a pixel.
- The fit for the global muon track must be good with  $\chi^2/ndof < 10$ .
- The muon must be well isolated with  $I < 0.06$

These definitions are accepted by all members of the CMS collaboration as loose and tight working points, respectively. This allows the analysis to use efficiency measurements created for wider use.

### 5.1.3 Electrons

The kinematic variables associated with an electron are extracted from the GSF fit. Pre-selected electrons must meet the following requirements.

- They must have a high transverse momentum with  $p_T > 7 \text{ GeV}$
- They should be centered in the detector with  $|\eta| < 2.4$ .
- They originate from the primary vertex with  $d_{xy} < 0.05 \text{ cm}$  and  $d_Z < 0.2 \text{ cm}$ .
- They pass a loose isolation cut of  $I < 0.4$ .

To reduce backgrounds, electrons are identified with the aid of an MVA [28]. Fully selected electrons pass the tight working point used by the CMS collaboration. In order to also match the samples of simulated electrons used in the training sample, the selected electrons also must pass the following cuts.

- The electron must have higher energy with  $p_T > 15 \text{ GeV}$ .
- The deposit of HCAL energy must be less than 9% of the ECAL energy deposit along the electron track.
- The track sum  $p_T$  component of the isolation must be less than 18% of the electron  $p_T$ .
- The electron must either have  $|\eta| < 1.4442$  or  $|\eta| > 1.5660$
- For electrons with  $|\eta| < 1.4442$ :
  - $\sigma_{i\eta i\eta} < 0.012$
  - Isolation in the ECAL cluster must be less than 0.4, and isolation in the HCAL must be less than 0.25.

- The difference between super cluster and track location of the electron must be small with  $\Delta\eta < 0.0095$  and  $\Delta\phi < 0.065$ .
- For electrons with  $|\eta| > 1.5660$ :
  - $\sigma_{i\eta i\eta} < 0.033$
  - Isolation in the ECAL cluster must be less than 0.45, and isolation in the HCAL must be less than 0.28.

There is a gap in the  $\eta$  direction that accounts for a gap in the CMS detector. This gap in the active detecting volume is needed to accomodate various electronics and structural components.

### 5.1.4 Jets

As described in Section 3.1, hadrons produced at the LHC are often accompanied by sprays of particles called jets. Conservation of energy and momentum means that the sum of jet constituents give the kinematics of the initial parton that produced them. Jets are constructed by clustering all particle-flow candidates with the anti- $k_T$  algorithm [29] using  $R = 0.4$ . Due to factors like pileup and detector response, the energy of the reconstructed jets are corrected [30].

Loose jet cuts, based on the constituents, are applied to remove jets constructed from detector noise. Jets that get a significant fraction of their energy from pileup are also removed. Preselected electrons and muons are also often reconstructed as jets. Any jet within  $\Delta R < 0.4$  from a preselected lepton is removed.

To be considered for the study of decay products of the Higgs boson, jets must be within the barrel of the detector with  $|\eta| < 2.5$ . The jets must satisfy  $p_T > 25 \text{ GeV}$  for the zero and one lepton signatures. The two lepton signature from  $Z(\ell\ell)H$  is cleaner and can apply the looser criteria of  $p_T > 20 \text{ GeV}$  to the jets.

Table 5.1: The cuts for each DeepCSV working point are defined for each year of Run 2 of the LHC. The working points are defined by their mistag rates.

Working Point	Mistag Rate	2016	2017	2018
Loose	10%	0.2219	0.1522	0.1241
Medium	1%	0.6324	0.4941	0.4184
Tight	0.1%	0.8958	0.8001	0.7527

## Identification of $b$ Jets

As mentioned in Section 3.2 while motivating the design of CMS, jets containing  $b$  hadrons have a distinct signature. This includes secondary vertices displaced from the beamline, as well as non-isolated leptons from weak decays. All of these features are considered in a deep neural network (DNN) called Deep Combined Secondary Vertex (DeepCSV) [31]. The output of DeepCSV has three working points that are defined based on the amount of false positives that can be expected in a collection of jets passing the cut. The specific values are different for each year of operation. They are given in Table 5.1.

### 5.1.5 Missing Transverse Energy

Missing transverse energy, also labelled  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  or MET, is a vector that takes advantage of the fact that momentum transverse to the beamline is conserved. MET is calculated by first taking the negative vector sum of the transverse momentum of all particle flow candidates in the event. The resulting vector is then adjusted by taking into account the difference between the uncorrected and corrected jet energies [32]. The resulting magnitude and direction is a proxy for the transverse momentum of any neutrinos in the event. However, large MET values can be generated by instrumental and beam effects as well. Therefore, there are additional event filters applied to events with large MET that removes events where the rest of the detector exhibits suspicious behavior.



### 5.1.6 Soft Hadronic Activity

In signal  $VH$  events, hadronic activity outside of the  $b\bar{b}$  decay of the Higgs is expected to be low. This hadronic activity is defined by considering the additional charged PF tracks coming from the primary vertex. An exclusion region is defined in an ellipse in  $(\eta, \phi)$  space containing the two selected  $b$  jets with a major axis length of  $\Delta R(b\bar{b}) + 1$  and a minor axis length of 1. All charged tracks outside of this ellipse that also do not correspond with the selected leptons and that satisfy  $p_T > 300 \text{ MeV}$  and  $d_Z < 0.2 \text{ cm}$  are clustered using the anti- $k_T$  algorithm [29] with  $R = 0.4$ . The resulting collection of soft jets is used to define four variables:

- $H_T^{\text{soft}}$  – The scalar sum of soft jets'  $p_T$  for jets with  $p_T > 1 \text{ GeV}$
- $N_2^{\text{soft}}$  – The number of soft jets with  $p_T > 2 \text{ GeV}$
- $N_5^{\text{soft}}$  – The number of soft jets with  $p_T > 5 \text{ GeV}$
- $N_{10}^{\text{soft}}$  – The number of soft jets with  $p_T > 10 \text{ GeV}$

These variables are used in the training of the BDT that discriminates signal and background events.

### 5.1.7 Kinematic Fit

In the two-lepton region, the all of the  $Z$  boson's decay products can be observed and its momentum can be reconstructed precisely.

## 5.2 Removal of QCD

We have some cuts across the board on our objects in order to remove events that are just QCD.

## 5.3 Categories of Vector Boson Decay

Now that we are ready to count, we can count leptons in order to characterise potential vector bosons.

### 5.3.1 0 Leptons

### 5.3.2 1 Lepton

### 5.3.3 2 Leptons

## 5.4 Topology of Higgs Decay

### 5.4.1 Resolved Jets

We reconstruct two  $b$  jets.

### 5.4.2 Boosted Jet

When the Higgs has very high  $p_T$ , the jet clustering algorithms can find both daughter particles as being part of a single jet.

## 5.5 Control Regions

### 5.5.1 Light Flavor Jets

### 5.5.2 Heavy Flavor Jets

### 5.5.3 $t\bar{t}$

# Chapter 6

## Analysis Results

### 6.1 Systematic Uncertainties

### 6.2 Combination Fit Method

### 6.3 Results



## Chapter 7

## Conclusions



# Appendix A

## Detector Projects

Each collaborator must contribute to the operation of the CMS detector before his or her name is added to the author list. The operation of the detector is distinct from analyzing the data generated by the detector, so all collaborators must adopt some role outside of being a physicist.

This appendix details projects I completed in order to contribute to the operation of the CMS detector. The first project presented is the Dynamo Consistency project. It is a plugin for the dynamic data management system Dynamo [33] that compares the inventory of files Dynamo expects at a site with the files that are actually at a site. The other project described is known as Workflow Web Tools. This is a dynamic web server that displays errors reported by the CMS computing infrastructure to operators, and allows those operators to perform corrective actions through the web page. Workflow Web Tools also tracks operator actions for future use in training various machine learning models. Both projects produced software packages written in Python [34, 35] and available through the Python Package Index (PyPI) as `dynamo-consistency` and `workflowwebtools`.

### A.1 Dynamo Consistency

[36] [37]

## A.2 Workflow Web Tools



## Appendix B

### Physics Calculations



# Appendix C

## Data Format



# Appendix D

## Generator Parameters



# Appendix E

## Data Card





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