Honing in on the top quark and Higgs boson

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a convenient view of nature:

simple

elegant

symmetric



$SU(3) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$ gauge symmetries





(but we've known for some time that the SU(2) is broken)



...and **so far** the Higgs Boson appears to be doing the job

the Electroweak sector is not the only place where the Higgs Boson is "breaking" this flat picture...



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several orders of magnitude difference between fermion generations









ATLAS have performed measurements and searches in ~all feasible Higgs production and decay modes.





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- under the assumption that the Yukawa coupling $g_X \leftrightarrow m_X$, measuring m_t is the most precise way to pin down the top \leftrightarrow Higgs coupling.
- since the top-Yukawa coupling is of order unity, its implications are enormous for Higgs phenomenology.



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arXiv 2104.06821





in this discussion we will focus on two measurements of LHC data: those of m_t and λ_{hhh} , and, crucially, how we are working to improve them.

- the Higgs boson self-coupling λ_{hhh} controls the shape of Higgs potential!
- the running of this coupling to high energy scales also has implications on the (meta) stability of Nature.
- the Higgs is the only known fundamental scalar with hypothesized contributions to inflation and couplings to dark matter/energy.
- in many scenarios, BSM values of λ_{hhh} drastically alter those implications!

how do we measure these quantities at the LHC?



experimental signatures





experimental signatures





experimental signatures





the LHC is a hadron collider: there is an **enormous** background of particle jets without b-hadrons.

identification of *b*-jets is key.







measuring the Higgs self-coupling, λ_{hhh}



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the most promising way to probe the Higgs self-coupling at the LHC is through measuring Higgs pair production.

but there are confounding factors: e.g. strong (negative) interference with other production diagrams.

 $\kappa_X = g_X / g_X^{SM}$

















ATLAS have made outstanding progress in the last years to get the exclusion limits down to ~3x the Standard Model hh cross section!

largest recent improvements:

 $b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-$ - *b*-jet identification

- deep learning-based background rejection

ATLAS

 $b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$

bbbb

Combined

 $\sigma_{aaF+VBF}^{SM}(HH) = 32.7 \text{ fb}$

- Expected limit





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small, positive values of κ_{λ} remain elusive:

very large negative interference with box diagram!









ATLAS + CMS may rule out $\kappa_{\lambda} = 0$ with a Run 2 combination, but we will still be far from observing hh production.

using current analysis strategies and uncertainties, we will not observe hh production even at the high-luminosity LHC.

what can we do to improve this search already in Run 3 in preparation for HL-LHC?





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 $bb\gamma\gamma$ and $bb\tau\tau$ channels currently have dominant statistical uncertainties.

bbbb, however, has low signal acceptance and is systematically limited...





LHC collisions occur at ~40 MHz

- 40-60 collisions per crossing of proton bunches
- we cannot afford to write all of these data to disk!
- the ATLAS trigger system
 - ~100 kHz: hardware-based "Level 1"
 - ~3 kHz: software-based "High Level" Trigger"
- *hh* production is allocated about 150 Hz of write-out rate in Run 3.













the most expensive part in Run 3: event-wide charged-particle tracking: ~1.5s per event!





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even with tens of thousands of CPUs in the HLT "farm",

we can only afford ~2 kHz of tracking rate for our hh triggers.

but for ~75% efficiency, incoming rate is ~10 kHz.





"*b*-jet"

calorimeter clusters

b-jet identification is the main handle we have vs backgrounds

but usually it requires full-event tracking, primary vertex finding, etc.

ATLAS recently developed very fast *b*-tagging algorithms designed specifically to run before event-wide tracking.






1) only reconstruct tracks inside jets

2) do not construct the primary vertex but look at track impact parameters w.r.t. the beamspot

3) use a modern machine-learning architecture (Deep Sets) to derive a flexible identification algorithm vs light-flavor jets





tracking only inside jets results in about a 4x speed-up in CPU time.

we reduce the background event rate from ~8 kHz to ~1.5 kHz,

and maintain a **98%** $hh \rightarrow 4b$ efficiency.

(more efficient than just identifying the correct primary vertex!)



- after this reduction in rate, we are capable of running conventional
 - event-wide tracking
 - and *b*-jet identification algorithms.
- but we gained an enormous amount of flexibility:
 - several available *b*-taggers running at different stages of the HLT with different CPU usage and background rejections



the impact on the search for hh is quite striking:

in Run 3 we are writing ~50% more $hh \rightarrow 4b$ events to disk than we did in Run 2!



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our new trigger strategy has benefits beyond just efficiency:

1) acceptance is much higher in the interesting, low m_{hh} region.

2) the sculpting of backgrounds is substantially reduced.



is quite striking:

enc the impact on the search for hh Run 3 main + delayed streams: $\varepsilon(HH \rightarrow 4b) = 59\%$ Run 3 main stream: $\varepsilon(HH \rightarrow 4b) = 53\%$ Run 2 main stream: $\varepsilon(HH \rightarrow 4b) = 41\%$ in Run 3 we Run it data-taking has been going more $hh \rightarrow 4b$ events to remarkably we than we did in Run 2! projectionstare that we will ~double our available benefits beyond just efficiency; data fh 2023. acceptance is much higher in uneel----

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300

400

the "interesting" low m_{hh} region

the sculpting of backgrounds is substantially reduced.

2

m_{HH} [GeV]

900

600

500

700

800



the top-quark mass, m_t



the ATLAS m_t state of affairs a few years ago: $m_t = 172.69 \pm 0.48$ GeV

what does a top-quark decay actually look like?









ATLAS recently measured m_t via the invariant mass of the W lepton and the b-jet

 $m_t = 172.63 \pm 0.79 \text{ GeV}$







ATLAS also recently measured m_t via the invariant mass of the W lepton and a lepton from the b-hadron decay

$m_t = 174.71 \pm 0.81 \text{ GeV}$

	$m_{\rm top} \; [{\rm GeV}]$
Result	172.63
Statistics	0.20
Method	0.05 ± 0.04
Matrix-element matching	0.35 ± 0.07
Parton shower and hadronisation	0.08 ± 0.05
Initial- and final-state QCD radiation	0.20 ± 0.02
Underlying event	0.06 ± 0.10
Colour reconnection	0.29 ± 0.07
Parton distribution function	0.02 ± 0.00
Single top modelling	0.03 ± 0.01
Background normalisation	0.01 ± 0.02
Jet energy scale	0.38 ± 0.02
<i>b</i> -jet energy scale	0.14 ± 0.02
Jet energy resolution	0.05 ± 0.02
Jet vertex tagging	0.01 ± 0.01
b-tagging	0.04 ± 0.01
Leptons	0.12 ± 0.02
Pile-up	0.06 ± 0.01
Recoil effect	0.37 ± 0.09
Total systematic uncertainty (without recoil)	0.67 ± 0.05
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most dominant uncertainties come from QCD modeling in the top-quark decay, radiation/hadronization of the *b*-quark, and *b*-hadron decays.

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CMS see a very similar picture



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~all domina QCD m decay an	nt uncertair deling in th dradiation/	9-quark ir and b-ha <i>top-quark</i> <i>hadronization</i>
of the <i>b</i> -quark.		





b-quark fragmentation



b-quark fragmentation for *b*-quark fragmentation. historically we have tuned it to to top-quark decays.

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decay were also measured



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there are a few ways to improve here:

1) use more exclusive decay modes (requires more data)

2) derive better secondary-vertex algorithms



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Graph Neural Network-based reconstruction is several factors better than conventional methods.







the theory community is also doing its part: new NNLO calculations of b-fragmentation in top-quark decays are much more precise than previously-available predictions.



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arXiv 2210.06078

Czakon, Generet, Mitov, Poncelet

uncertainties on m_t by profiling uncertainties. can ATLAS also achieve sub-400 MeV top-quark decay modeling? the theory community is also doing their part: new NNLO calculations of b-fragmentation in top-quark decays



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a stronger understanding of topquark decays is still needed to improve sensitivity to m_t , but there are promising recent developments.

bonus

arXiv 2104.06821

 K_{λ}

HL-LHC tī event in ATLAS ITK at <µ>=200

36 fb⁻¹ (13 TeV)

 $171.77 \pm 0.38 \text{ GeV}$

