



The Compact Muon Solenoid Experiment
Conference Report

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Vector Boson Fusion Production of the Standard Model Higgs at the LHC

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Abstract

The cross section measurements of the Higgs boson production in the vector boson fusion (VBF) process at the LHC followed by a Higgs boson decay into $\tau\tau$, WW and $\gamma\gamma$ will significantly extend the possibility of Higgs boson coupling measurements. Prospective analyses with the CMS experiment are discussed for the $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$, WW and $\tau\tau$ decay channels for an integrated LHC luminosity of 30 fb^{-1} . For a Higgs boson mass in the range 115 to 140 GeV, an observation with a significance above 2 standard deviations is expected in the H to $\gamma\gamma$ channel, and above 3 standard deviations in the H to $\tau\tau$ channel. The H to WW channel offers a discovery reach above 5 sigma in the mass range 140 to 200 GeV. A new complete strategy is presented for the control of systematics and early searches at very low luminosities of the order of 1 fb^{-1} .

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1 Introduction

Vector Boson Fusion (VBF) Higgs boson production is the second largest production mechanism at the LHC. The cross section measurements of the VBF process, $VV \rightarrow H$ ($qq \rightarrow qqH$), followed by Higgs boson decays into $\tau\tau$, WW and $\gamma\gamma$ will significantly extend the possibility of Higgs boson coupling measurements [1, 2].

2 Vector Boson Fusion Signature

Events produced by VBF are characterized by a distinct topology of the final state: two forward jets with little extra hadronic activity and the decay products of the Higgs boson. The rapidity distribution of the 3rd jet with respect to the two forward jets, η_{j3}^* , is shown in Fig. 1 (left) which shows a double-peak structure for the electroweak processes, including the VBF signal, and is more central for the QCD background samples. Applying a central jet veto (CJV) is a powerful rejection method against the QCD background. To avoid considering jets from pile-up events in the CJV, jets are associated to the signal vertex using tracks. For every extra jet one can define the quantity $\alpha_{j3} = \Sigma p_{T\text{trk}}/E_{Tj3}$, where $p_{T\text{trk}}$ is the p_T of tracks from the signal vertex within the jet cone and E_{Tj3} is the jet measured raw E_T . Figure 1 (right) shows α_{j3} tends to peak at low values for non-signal jets. The efficiency of the veto for the background samples versus the signal efficiency is shown in Figure 2 (left) for events containing a 3rd jet with E_T larger than different threshold values. An optimal threshold where the signal process has $\sim 80\%$ efficiency while the backgrounds are suppressed below 50% is used [3]. An alternative approach is to consider a track counting veto (TCV) [4], where the number of tracks between the two leading jets is counted with different p_T thresholds. Figure 2 (right) shows the performance of the TCV algorithm, i.e. the efficiency of selecting the signal versus the background for events with an increasing cut on the track multiplicity and p_T . The black star indicates the performance of the CJV based on calorimeter jets. The TCV algorithm can reach similar discrimination power than the central jet veto.

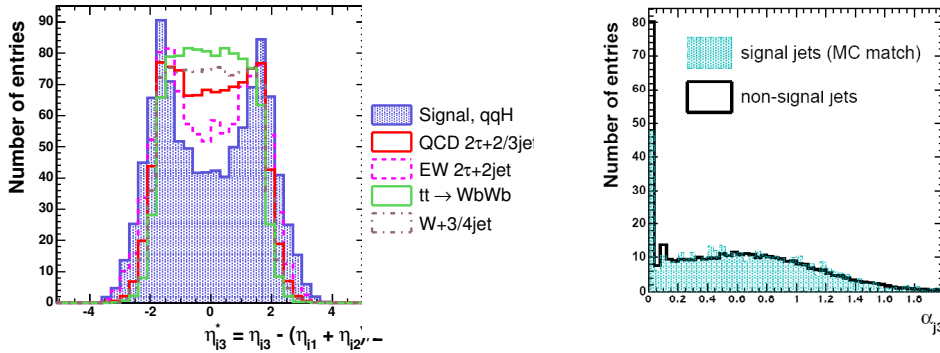


Figure 1: The η distribution of the 3rd jet with respect to the two forward jets (left). The distribution of α_{j3} which is used to match jets to the signal vertex (right).

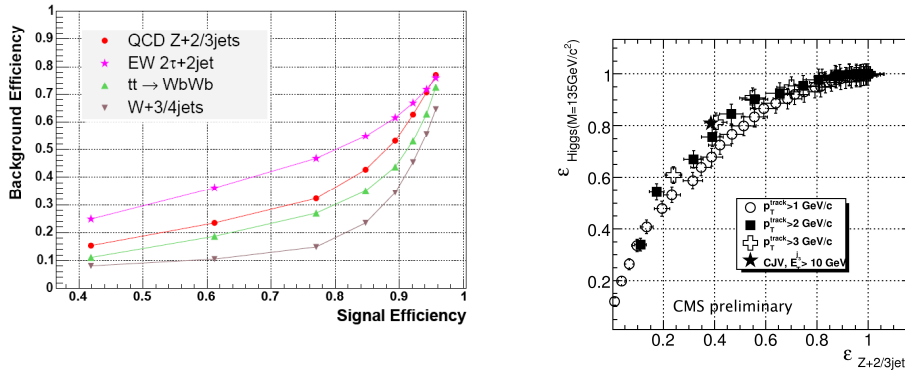


Figure 2: Efficiency of the CJV for background versus signal ($M_H=135$ GeV), for increasing 3rd jet $E_{T\text{th}}$ threshold (left). TCV performance for different p_t^{track} and track multiplicity thresholds compared to the performance of the CJV.

3 Vector Boson Fusion Higgs Discovery Potential

The observability of the VBF Higgs boson production has been studied with the full CMS detector simulation in the $H \rightarrow \tau\tau, \gamma\gamma$ and WW decay channels [5]. VBF $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$ production has been studied in the Higgs mass range of 115 to 145 GeV in the lepton plus τ_{jet} final state. Figure 3 (left) shows the expected di- τ mass distribution using the collinear approximation [3] for a luminosity of 30 fb^{-1} . Figure 3 (right) shows the significance of the expected number of signal events for different Higgs masses. A statistical signal significance of 3.9σ is expected for a Higgs mass of 135 GeV.

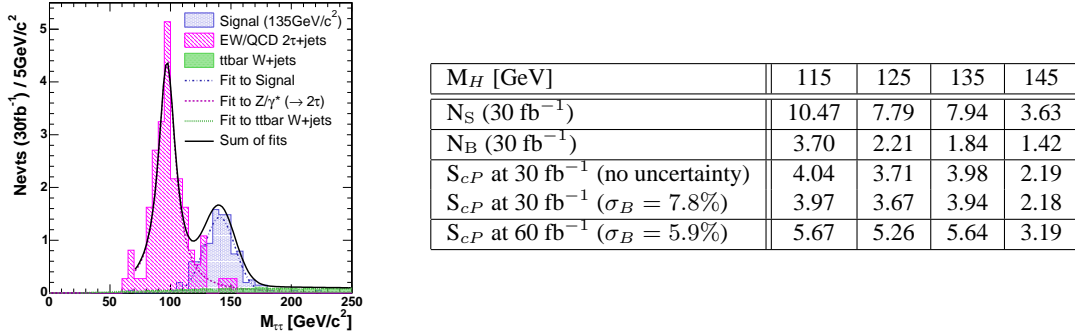


Figure 3: Di- τ invariant mass expected for a luminosity of 30 fb^{-1} (left). Significance of the expected number of signal events for different Higgs boson masses (right).

VBF $H \rightarrow WW$ production in the lepton plus two jet final state has been studied in the Higgs mass range between 120 and 250 GeV. Figure 4 (left) shows the signal significance expected with 30 fb^{-1} for different central jet veto selections [6]. In the mass range between 140-200 GeV a 5σ significance can be achieved. VBF $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ production has also been studied in the Higgs mass range between 115 and 150 GeV [7]. Figure 4 (right) shows the signal significance expected with 30 and 60 fb^{-1} . With 60 fb^{-1} of collected data a 3σ significance can be achieved for a low mass Higgs in the range 115 to 130 GeV.

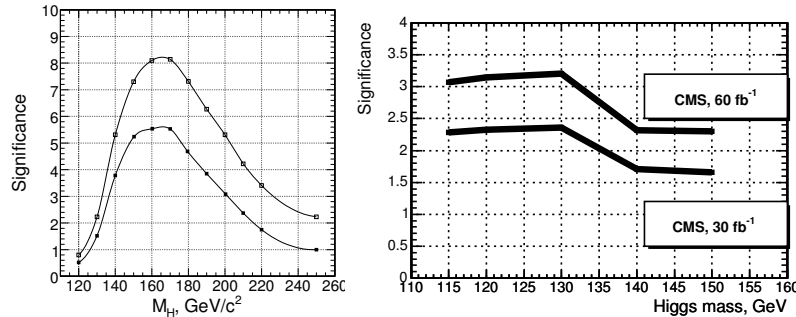


Figure 4: Signal significance of VBF $H \rightarrow WW$ for 30 fb^{-1} . The high (low) curves correspond to full (loose) extra jet veto (left). Signal significance of VBF $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ for 30 and 60 fb^{-1} (right).

4 Search of Higgs $\rightarrow \tau\tau \rightarrow$ lepton + τ_{jet} with 1 fb^{-1}

A selection strategy for the search of VBF Higgs $\rightarrow \tau\tau \rightarrow$ lepton + τ_{jet} with 1 fb^{-1} has been developed and is described in detail in [8]. The di- τ invariant mass will be analyzed to search for the presence of a Higgs boson in the region above the $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$ mass peak. It is important to know well the shape of the $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$ background. The dominant uncertainty comes from the modeling of the missing transverse momentum related to the effects of pile-up, underlying event and the calorimeter noise and response. A method to model the di- τ mass has been developed [4]. $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$ data events are selected and the muons are removed from the real event. Di- τ Monte Carlo events are generated with the same kinematics as the real muons and their detector response is fully simulated. Finally the real $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$ events with the muons removed and the simulated di- τ events are super-imposed to form one event, $Z \rightarrow \tau_\mu\tau_\mu$, and the di- τ mass is calculated. The reconstructed di- τ mass for real and fake $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$ events for inclusive Drell-Yan and Z +jets events are shown in Fig. 5. A good agreement between the di- τ mass shapes is obtained.

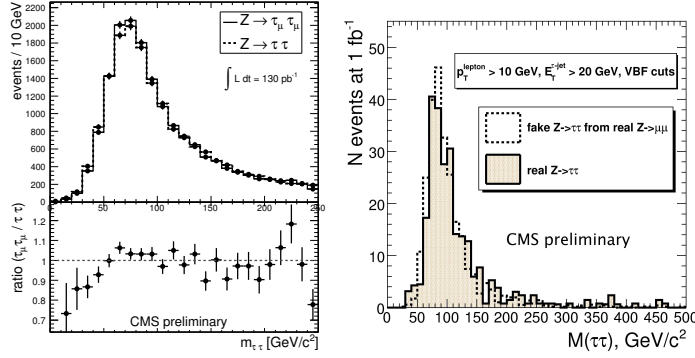


Figure 5: Reconstructed di- τ mass for real and fake $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$ events for the final states (left) $\tau\tau \rightarrow \mu\nu\nu + \mu\nu\nu$ from inclusive Drell-Yan events and (right) $\tau\tau \rightarrow l\nu\nu + \tau_{jet}\nu$ from Z +jets events.

The expected di- τ mass distribution for the background and the Higgs signal for 1 fb^{-1} is shown in Fig. 6 (left). A profile likelihood method is used to evaluate the upper limit on the number of signal events. Figure 6 (right) shows the expected 95% CL limit on the cross section times branching ratio as a function of the Higgs boson mass.

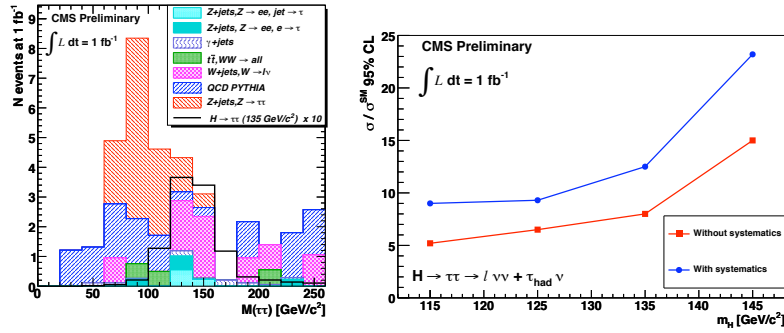


Figure 6: Di- τ mass distribution of expected backgrounds with 1 fb^{-1} after all selection. Backgrounds are shown cumulative. The signal mass distribution scaled by a factor 10 is also shown for $M_H = 135 \text{ GeV}$.

5 Conclusion

A selection strategy for the Standard Model Higgs boson produced in vector boson fusion decaying to a pair of τ leptons with 1 fb^{-1} of early CMS data at the LHC has been presented. No signal evidence is expected and upper limit on the cross section times branching ratio is evaluated. Prospective analyses for the $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$, WW and $\tau\tau$ decay channels for a luminosity of 30 fb^{-1} have also been discussed. For a Higgs boson mass in the range 115 to 140 GeV, an observation with a significance above 2 standard deviations is expected in the H to $\gamma\gamma$ channel, and above 3 standard deviations in the H to $\tau\tau$ channel. The H to WW channel offers a discovery reach above 5 sigma in the mass range of 140 to 200 GeV.

References

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