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Nuclear Physics B Proceedings Supplement 00 (2014) 1–3

Nuclear Physics B
Proceedings
Supplement

Search for H to $b\bar{b}$ in association with single top quarks as a test of Higgs boson couplings

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Abstract

The production of a Higgs boson in association with a single top quark is one of a few channels which are sensitive for not yet excluded anomalous couplings of the Higgs boson to fermions. Multivariate analysis tools are used for the reconstruction and classification of signal events, where the Higgs boson decays into bottom quarks and the single top quark decays leptonically. In this conference report the most recent results at time of the conference using the full dataset recorded by the CMS detector at 8 TeV are presented.

Keywords: Single Top, Higgs, Yukawa coupling, Event reconstruction, MVA

1. Introduction

Since the discovery of a new particle by the CMS and ATLAS collaborations in 2012 [1, 2], all measurements are found to be consistent with the Higgs Boson predicted by the standard model (SM). In order to find any deviations from the SM and therefore possible signs of new physics beyond the SM, the properties of the particle have to be measured with ever increasing precision. One of these properties is the value of y_t , the Yukawa coupling of the Higgs boson to top quarks. Most measurements probing this property are only sensitive to the absolute value of y_t , rather than its sign, as quantities such as the rate of Higgs boson production in association with top-quark pairs depend only on $|y_t|^2$. The cross section for the production of Higgs bosons in association with single top quarks is particularly sensitive to the sign of y_t , or, more precisely, the relative phase of the couplings of the Higgs to the top quark and to W bosons. The two amplitudes lead to a nearly total destructive interference, with an expected cross section of 18.3 fb at 8 TeV in the standard model [3]. Any alteration of the relative phase of the two amplitudes would result in an enhancement of the cross section and this process is therefore very sensitive to enhancements in models beyond the standard model.

2. Analysis overview

The analysis which is described here focusses on the search for a signal process under the hypothesis of $y_t = -1$. Due to constructive interference the production cross section of this process would be enhanced by a factor of ~ 13 up to $\sigma = 234$ fb.

2.1. Event Topology and Event Selection

The final topology for the searched process consists of one isolated lepton, missing transverse energy, four bottom quarks as well as one distinct light forward jet. The Feynman graph for this process can be seen in Figure 1. In order to enhance the signal fraction in all considered events we apply a selection where one tightly isolated lepton, either an electron or a muon, is required; the missing transverse energy due to the escaping neutrino has to be larger than 45 GeV in the electron channel and larger than 35 GeV in the muon channel and jets have to have a transverse momentum greater than 20 GeV, if they lie in the central part of the detector ($|\eta| < 2.4$), and greater than 40 GeV, if they lie in the outer detector regions ($|\eta| > 2.4$). One of these jets has to be untagged, and at least 4 jets have to have a transverse momentum greater than 30 GeV. The remaining events are sorted according to the multiplicity of b-tagged jets into two

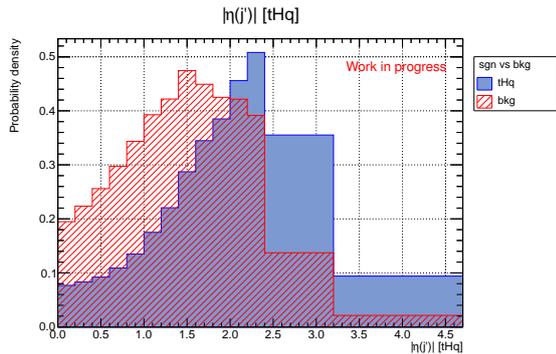


Figure 3: Distributions of signal and background events over the absolute value of the pseudorapidity of the reconstructed light jet, which is used as input variable for the classification MVA. This variable is the single most discriminating variable between signal and background events.

3. Summary

With the full dataset at a center of mass energy of 8 TeV a search for t-channel single top production in association with the 125 GeV Higgs boson is conducted. The tHq decay channel is used with $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$. The signal is assumed to come from the $y_t = -1$ coupling which would require beyond the standard model physics. The assignment of the jets is using two separate artificial neural networks. This analysis pioneers the technique, that each event is reconstructed under a potential tHq signal hypothesis and a $t\bar{t}$ background hypothesis. The individual reconstructions provide input variables with a high separation power between signal and background events. A third neural network then uses these input variables, obtained from the reconstruc-

tions, to enhance the signal-to-background ratio and discriminate against the main backgrounds, including the predominant $t\bar{t}$ production. This process is modelled with a simulation-driven approach and a data-driven approach cross-checking each other. The analysis was not yet public at the time of the conference, but results have been made public shortly afterwards [4].

References

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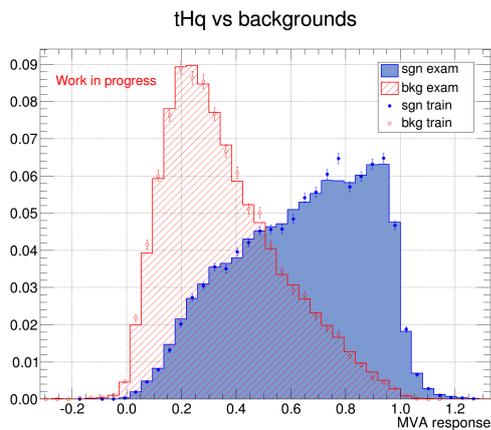


Figure 4: Distributions of the classification MVAs response for signal and background events. A good separation has been achieved.