Measurements of Higgs boson production and couplings in diboson final states with the ATLAS detector at the LHC


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Measurements of Higgs boson production and couplings in diboson final states with the ATLAS detector at the LHC

ATLAS Collaboration

1. Introduction

The discovery of a new particle of mass about 125 GeV in the search for the Standard Model (SM) Higgs boson at the CERN Large Hadron Collider (LHC) [1], reported in July 2012 by the ATLAS [2] and CMS [3] Collaborations, is a milestone in the quest to understand the origin of electroweak symmetry breaking [4–9].

This Letter presents measurements of several properties of the newly observed particle, including its mass, production strengths and couplings to fermions and bosons, using diboson final states: $H \rightarrow \gamma \gamma, H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$, and $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$. Spin studies are reported elsewhere [10]. Due to the outstanding performance of the LHC accelerator throughout 2012, the present data sample is a factor of ~2.5 larger than that used in Ref. [2]. With these additional data, many aspects of the ATLAS studies have been improved: several experimental uncertainties have been reduced and new exclusive analyses have been included. In particular, event categories targeting specific production modes have been introduced, providing enhanced sensitivity to different Higgs boson couplings.

The results reported here are based on the data samples recorded with the ATLAS detector [11] in 2011 (at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV) and 2012 (at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV), corresponding to integrated luminosities of about 4.7 fb$^{-1}$ and 20.7 fb$^{-1}$, respectively. Similar studies, including also fermionic decays, have been reported recently by the CMS Collaboration using a smaller dataset [12].

This Letter is organised as follows. Section 2 describes the data sample and the event reconstruction. Section 3 summarises the Monte Carlo (MC) samples used to model signal and background processes. The analyses of the three decay channels are presented in Sections 4–6. Measurements of the Higgs boson mass, production properties and couplings are discussed in Section 7. Section 8 is devoted to the conclusions.

2. Data sample and event reconstruction

After data quality requirements, the integrated luminosities of the samples used for the studies reported here are about 4.7 fb$^{-1}$ in 2011 and 20.7 fb$^{-1}$ in 2012, with uncertainties given in Table 1 (determined as described in Ref. [13]). Because of the high LHC peak luminosity (up to $7.7 \times 10^{33}$ cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ in 2012) and the 50 ns bunch spacing, the number of proton–proton interactions occurring in the same bunch crossing is large (on average 20.7, up to about 40). This “pile-up” of events requires the use of dedicated algorithms and corrections to mitigate its impact on the reconstruction of e.g., leptons, photons and jets.

For the $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ and $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ channels, the primary vertex of the event is defined as the reconstructed vertex with the highest $\sum p_T^2$, where $p_T$ is the magnitude of the transverse momentum of each associated track; it is required to have at least three associated tracks with $p_T > 0.4$ GeV for the

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1. Throughout this Letter, the symbol $\ell$ stands for electron or muon.

2. ATLAS uses a right-handed coordinate system with its origin at the nominal interaction point (IP) in the centre of the detector, and the $z$-axis along the beam line. The $x$-axis points from the IP to the centre of the LHC ring, and the $y$-axis points upwards. Cylindrical coordinates $(r,\phi)$ are used in the transverse plane, $\phi$ being the azimuthal angle around the beam line. Observables labelled “transverse” are projected into the $x$–$y$ plane. The pseudorapidity is defined in terms of the polar angle $\theta$ as $\eta = -\ln \tan(\theta/2)$. 

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$H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ analysis: a different primary vertex definition is used, as described in Section 4.

Muon candidates [17] are formed by matching reconstructed tracks in the inner detector (ID) with either complete tracks or track segments reconstructed in the muon spectrometer (MS). The muon acceptance is extended to the region $2 \leq |\eta| < 2.7$, which is outside the ID coverage, using tracks reconstructed in the forward part of the MS.

Electron candidates [18] must have a well-reconstructed ID track pointing to a cluster of cells with energy depositions in the electromagnetic calorimeter. The cluster should satisfy a set of identification criteria requiring the longitudinal and transverse shower profiles to be consistent with those expected for electromagnetic showers. Tracks associated with electromagnetic clusters are fitted using a Gaussian Sum Filter [19], which allows for bremsstrahlung energy losses to be taken into account. The identification criteria described in Ref. [18] have been modified with time to maintain optimal performance as a function of pile-up, in particular for low-$p_T$ electrons.

The reconstruction, identification and trigger efficiencies for electrons and muons, as well as their energy and momentum scales and resolutions, are determined using large samples of $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$, $W \rightarrow \ell v$ and $J/\psi \rightarrow \ell\ell$ events [18,20]. The resulting uncertainties are smaller than ±1% in most cases, one exception being the uncertainty on the electron selection efficiency which varies between ±2% and ±5% as a function of $p_T$ and $\eta$.

Photon candidates [21] are reconstructed and identified using shower shapes in the electromagnetic calorimeter, with or without associated conversion tracks, as described in Section 4.

Jets [22,23] are built from topological clusters [24] using the anti-$k_T$ algorithm [25] with a distance parameter $R = 0.4$. They are typically required to have transverse energies greater than 25 GeV (30 GeV) for $|\eta| < 2.4$ ($2.4 < |\eta| < 4.5$), where the higher threshold in the forward region reduces the contribution from jet candidates produced by pile-up. To reduce this contribution further, jets within the ID acceptance ($|\eta| < 2.47$) are required to have more than 25–75% (depending on the pile-up conditions and Higgs boson decay mode) of the summed scalar $p_T$ of their associated tracks coming from tracks originating from the event primary vertex. Pile-up corrections based on the average event transverse energy density in the jet area [26] and the number of reconstructed vertices in the data are also applied.

Jets originating from b-quarks [27–29] are identified (“b-tagged”) by combining information from algorithms exploiting the impact parameter of tracks (defined as the distance of closest approach to the primary vertex in the transverse plane), the presence of a displaced vertex, and the reconstruction of D- and B-hadron decays.

The missing transverse momentum, $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ [30], is the magnitude of the negative vector sum of the $p_T$ of muons, electrons, photons, jets and clusters of calorimeter cells with $|\eta| < 4.9$ not associated with these objects. The uncertainty on the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ energy scale is obtained from the propagation of the uncertainties on the contributing components and thus depends on the considered final state. A track-based missing transverse momentum, $p_T^{\text{miss}}$, is calculated as the negative vector sum of the transverse momenta of tracks associated with the primary vertex.

The main sources of experimental uncertainty common to all the channels considered in this study are summarised in the top part of Table 1.

### 3. Signal and background simulation

The SM Higgs boson production processes considered in these studies are gluon fusion ($gg \rightarrow H$, denoted ggF), vector-boson fusion ($qq \rightarrow q'q'H$, denoted VBF), and Higgs-strahlung ($qg \rightarrow WH$, denoted WH, or $t\bar{t}H$, denoted tH) with $t\bar{t}$+jets (VBF), and Higgs-strahlung ($qg \rightarrow WH$, denoted WH, or $t\bar{t}H$, denoted tH) with $t\bar{t}$+jets (VBF), and the small contribution from the associated production with a t\bar{t} pair ($gg/qq \rightarrow t\bar{t}H$, denoted tH) is taken into account in the $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ and $H \rightarrow ZZ^\ast$ analyses. Sample of MC-simulated events are employed to model Higgs boson production and compute signal selection efficiencies. The event generators are listed in Table 2. Cross-section normalisations and other corrections (e.g. Higgs boson $p_T$ spectrum) are obtained from up-to-date calculations as described in Refs. [2, 14–16,49–77]. Table 3 shows the production cross sections and the branching ratios for the final states considered in this study for a Higgs boson with mass $m_H = 125$ GeV, while Table 1 summarises the theoretical uncertainties on the expected signal common to all channels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source (experimental)</th>
<th>Uncertainty (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luminosity</td>
<td>±1.8 (2011), ±3.6 (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electron efficiency</td>
<td>±2–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jet energy scale</td>
<td>±1–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jet energy resolution</td>
<td>±2–40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Main sources of experimental uncertainty, and of theoretical uncertainty on the signal yield, common to the three channels considered in this study. Theoretical uncertainties are given for a SM Higgs boson of mass $m_H = 125$ GeV and are taken from Refs. [14–16]. "QCD scale" indicates (here and throughout this Letter) QCD renormalisation and factorisation scales and "PDFs" indicates parton distribution functions. The ranges for the experimental uncertainties cover the variations with $p_T$ and $\eta$.

### Event generators used to model the signal and the main background processes

"PYTHIA" indicates that PYTHIA6 [31] and PYTHIA8 [32] are used for the simulations of 7 TeV and 8 TeV data, respectively.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Generator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ggF, VBF</td>
<td>POWHEG, SHERPA [33–48]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WH, ZH, t\bar{t}</td>
<td>PYTHIA, SHERPA [33,34]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H \rightarrow ZZ^\ast$ decay</td>
<td>POWHEG, SHERPA [33,34]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$W +$ jets, $Z/\gamma^*$ + jets</td>
<td>ALPGEN [37] + HERWIG [38],</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t\bar{t}$</td>
<td>PYTHIA, SHERPA [39]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t\bar{t}$, $t\bar{t}w$, $tb$</td>
<td>MCFM [40] + HERWIG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$q\bar{q}$</td>
<td>AcerMC [41] + PYTHIA6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$qq \rightarrow WW$</td>
<td>POWHEG + PYTHIA6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$gg$</td>
<td>gg2WW, gg2ZZ, gg2ZZZ, HERWIG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$q\bar{q} \rightarrow ZZ^\ast$</td>
<td>POWHEG + PYTHIA6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$W' +$ jets</td>
<td>ALPGEN + HERWIG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$W'y +$ jets</td>
<td>MadGraph [46–48] + PYTHIA6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Event generators used to model the signal and the main background processes. "$\gamma\gamma$" indicates that PYTHIA6 [31] and PYTHIA8 [32] are used for the simulations of 7 TeV and 8 TeV data, respectively.
Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cross section (pb) at √s = 8 (7) TeV</th>
<th>Branching ratio (relative uncertainty)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ggF</td>
<td>19.5 (15.32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VBF</td>
<td>1.58 (1.22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WH</td>
<td>0.70 (0.57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZH</td>
<td>0.39 (0.31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fH</td>
<td>0.13 (0.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>22.32 (17.51)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. The H → γγ channel

This channel is particularly sensitive to physics beyond the Standard Model since the decay proceeds via loops (which in the SM are dominated by W boson exchange).

Events are required to have two high-p_T photons with invariant mass in the range 100–160 GeV. The main background is continuum γγ production, with smaller contributions from γ + jet and dijet processes. Compared to the previously published results [2], additional categories of events are introduced in the analysis of the 8 TeV data to increase the sensitivity to production through VBF or in association with a W or Z boson.

4.1. Event selection

The data used in this channel are selected using a diphoton trigger [90] requiring two clusters formed from energy depositions in the electromagnetic calorimeter, with shapes compatible with electromagnetic showers. An E_T threshold of 20 GeV is applied to each cluster for the 7 TeV data, while at 8 TeV the thresholds are increased to 35 GeV on the leading (highest E_T) and 25 GeV on the sub-leading (next-highest E_T) cluster. The trigger efficiency is larger than 99% for events passing the final event selection.

In the offline analysis, photon candidates are required to have E_T > 40 GeV and 30 GeV for the leading and sub-leading photon, respectively. Both photons must be reconstructed in the fiducial region |η| < 2.37, excluding the calorimeter barrel/end-cap transition region 1.37 ≤ |η| < 1.56.

Photon candidates are required to pass tight identification criteria based mainly on shower shapes in the electromagnetic calorimeter [2]. They are classified as converted if they are associated with two tracks consistent with a γ → e^+e^- conversion process or a single track leaving no hit in the innermost layer of the inner detector, and as unconverted otherwise [51]. Identification efficiencies, averaged over η, range from 85% to above 95% for the E_T range under consideration. Jets misidentified as photons are further rejected by applying calorimeter and track isolation requirements to the photon candidates. The calorimeter isolation is defined as the sum of the transverse energies of positive-energy topological clusters within a cone of size ΔR = \sqrt{Δφ^2 + Δη^2} = 0.4 around the photon candidates, excluding the core of the showers.

It is required to be smaller than 4 GeV and 6 GeV for the 7 TeV and 8 TeV data, respectively. The pile-up contribution is corrected on an event-by-event basis [92]. The track isolation, applied to the 8 TeV data only, is defined as the scalar sum of the transverse momenta of all tracks with p_T > 1 GeV associated with the diphoton production vertex (defined below) and lying within a cone of size ΔR = 0.2 around the photon candidate; it is required to be smaller than 2.6 GeV. Conversion tracks associated with either photon candidate are excluded.

For the precise measurement of the diphoton invariant mass (m_{γγ}), as well as for the computation of track-based quantities (e.g. track isolation, selection of jets associated with the hard interaction), the diphoton production vertex should be known precisely. The determination of the vertex position along the beam axis is based on so-called “photon pointing”, where the directions of the two photons, measured using the longitudinal and lateral segmentation of the electromagnetic calorimeter, are combined with a constraint from the average beam-spot position. For converted photons the position of the conversion vertex is also used. This technique alone is sufficient to ensure that the contribution of angular measurement uncertainties to the diphoton invariant mass resolution is negligible. For a more precise identification of the primary vertex, needed for the computation of track-based quantities, this pointing information is combined with tracking information from each reconstructed vertex: the \Sigma p_T^2 for the tracks associated with a given vertex and, for the 8 TeV data, the \Sigma p_T of the tracks and the azimuthal angle between the transverse momentum of the diphoton system and that of the vector sum of the track p_T. A Neural Network (likelihood) discriminant is used for the 8 TeV (7 TeV) data. The performance of this algorithm is studied using Z → ee decays, ignoring the tracks associated with the electrons and weighting the events so that the p_T and rapidity distributions of the Z boson match those expected from the Higgs boson signal. The probability of finding a vertex within 0.3 mm of the one computed from the electron tracks is larger than 75%.

The photon energy calibration is obtained from a detailed simulation of the detector geometry and response, independently for converted and unconverted photons. The calibration is refined by applying \eta-dependent correction factors determined from studies of Z → ee events in data [18]: they range from ±0.5% to ±1.5% depending on the pseudorapidity of the photon. Samples of radiative Z → \ell\ellγ decays are used to verify the photon energy scale. The energy response of the calorimeter shows a stability of better than ±0.1% with time and various pile-up conditions.

The signal efficiency of the above selections at 8 TeV is estimated to be 37.5% for a Higgs boson with m_H = 125 GeV.

The number of events in the diphoton mass region 100–160 GeV passing this inclusive selection is 23788 in the 7 TeV data and 118893 in the 8 TeV data. The fraction of genuine \gamma\gamma events, as estimated from data [93], is (75±2)%.

4.2. Event categorisation

To increase the sensitivity to the overall Higgs boson signal, as well as to the specific VBF and VH production modes, the selected events are separated into 14 mutually exclusive categories for further analysis, following the order of preference listed below.

Lepton category (8 TeV data only). This category targets mainly VH events where the W or Z bosons decay to charged leptons. An isolated electron (E_T > 15 GeV) or muon (p_T > 10 GeV) candidate is required. To remove contamination from Z\gamma production with Z → ee, electrons forming an invariant mass with either photon in the range 84 GeV < m_{γγ} < 94 GeV are not considered.
plane3 require to satisfy momentum orthogonal to the diphoton thrust axis in the transverse plane, as well as a background sample composed of simulated dijet momenta. The BDT training is performed using a signal sample consisting of events produced through the VBF process, which is characterised by the presence of two forward jets with little hadronic activity in the central part of the detector. Jets are reconstructed with invariant mass in the range 60 GeV to 110 GeV is required. To reduce the ggF contamination, the pseudorapidity difference between the dijet and diphoton systems is required to be |Δηγγ| < 1, and the component of the diphoton transverse momentum orthogonal to the diphoton thrust axis in the transverse plane \[^3\] is required to satisfy pT > 70 GeV.

Low-mass two-jet category (8 TeV data only): To select VH events where the W or Z boson decays hadronically, a pair of jets with invariant mass in the range 60 GeV < mjj < 110 GeV is required. To reduce the ggF contamination, the pseudorapidity difference between the dijet and diphoton systems is required to be |Δηγγ| < 1, and the component of the diphoton transverse momentum orthogonal to the diphoton thrust axis in the transverse plane \[^3\] is required to satisfy pT > 70 GeV.

High-mass two-jet categories: These categories are designed to select events produced through the VBF process, which is characterised by the presence of two forward jets with little hadronic activity in the central part of the detector. Jets are reconstructed with invariant mass in the range 60 GeV < mjj < 110 GeV is required. To reduce the ggF contamination, the pseudorapidity difference between the dijet and diphoton systems is required to be |Δηγγ| < 1, and the component of the diphoton transverse momentum orthogonal to the diphoton thrust axis in the transverse plane \[^3\] is required to satisfy pT > 70 GeV.

4.3. Background estimation

The background is obtained from fits to the diphoton mass spectrum in the data over the range 100–160 GeV after the full selection. The procedure, the choice of the analytical forms for the background and the determination of the corresponding uncertainties follow the method described in Ref. [2]. Depending on the category, the analytical form is either a fourth-order Bernstein polynomial \[^96\] (used also for the inclusive sample), an exponential of a second-order polynomial, or a single exponential. In these fits, the Higgs boson signal is described by the sum of a Crystal Ball function \[^97\] for the core of the distribution and a Gaussian function for the tails.

4.4. Systematic uncertainties

Systematic uncertainties can affect the signal yield, the signal fractions in the various categories (with possible migrations between them), the signal mass resolution and the mass measurement. The main sources specific to the H → γγ channel are summarised in Section 2 and Table 1. The uncertainties described below are those affecting the 8 TeV analysis (see Ref. [2] for the 7 TeV analysis).

Signal yield: Relevant experimental uncertainties on the signal yield come from the knowledge of the luminosity (Table 1) and the photon identification efficiency. The latter is estimated by comparing the efficiencies obtained using MC simulations and several data-driven methods: Z → ee events with a simulation-based extrapolation from electrons to photons, an isolation sideband technique using an inclusive photon sample, and photons from Z → ττ radiative decays. Owing to several analysis improvements and the large size of the 8 TeV data sample, the resulting uncertainty is significantly reduced compared to that reported in Ref. [2] and amounts to ±2.4%. Smaller experimental uncertainties come from the knowledge of the trigger efficiency, the impact of the photon isolation requirement and the photon energy scale. In addition to the theoretical uncertainties on inclusive Higgs boson production listed in Table 1, the ggF contribution to the two-jet categories is subject to large uncertainties (Table 4) due to missing higher-order corrections; they are estimated using the method described in Ref. [98] and the MCFM \[^99\] generator calculations. Finally, the background modelling contributes an uncertainty between ±2% and ±14% depending on the category.

Event migration: Mis-modelling of the detector material could cause event migration between the unconverted and converted photon categories in the simulation. The uncertainty is obtained from MC samples produced with variations of the material de-
The diphoton invariant mass distribution after selections for the inclusive analysis for the combined 7 TeV and 8 TeV data. The result of a fit to the data with the sum of a SM Higgs boson signal (with $m_H = 126.8$ GeV and free signal strength) and background is superimposed. The residuals of the data with respect to the fitted background are displayed in the lower panel.

**5. The $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$ channel**

Despite the small branching ratio, this channel provides good sensitivity to Higgs boson studies, e.g. to the coupling to Z bosons, mainly because of the large signal-to-background ratio.

Events are required to have two pairs of same-flavour, opposite-charge, isolated leptons: 4e, 2e2μ, 2μ2e, 4μ (where final states with two electrons and two muons are ordered by the flavour of the dilepton pair with mass closest to the Z boson mass). The largest background comes from continuum $(Z^0/\gamma^*) (Z^0/\gamma^*)$ production, referred to hereafter as $ZZ^*$. Important contributions arise also from $Z + \text{jets}$ and $tt$ production, where two of the charged lepton candidates can come from decays of hadrons with $b$- or $c$-quark content, misidentification of light-quark jets, and photon conversions.

The analysis presented here is largely the same as that described in Ref. [100] with only minor changes. The electron identification is tightened in the 8 TeV data to improve the background rejection for final states with a pair of electrons forming the lower-mass $Z^\ast$ boson. The mass measurement uses a constrained fit to the $Z$ mass to improve the resolution. The lepton pairing is modified to reduce the mis-pairing in the $4\mu$ and $4e$ final states, and the minimum requirement on the mass of the second $Z^\ast$ boson is relaxed. Final-state radiation (FSR) is included in the reconstruction of the first $Z^\ast$ in events containing muons. Finally, a classification
which separates Higgs boson candidate events into ggF-like, VBF-like and VH-like categories is introduced.

5.1. Event selection

The data are selected using single-lepton or dilepton triggers. The $p_T$ threshold of the single-muon trigger is 24 GeV (18 GeV) in 2012 (2011) and the $E_T$ threshold of the single-electron trigger is 24 GeV (20–22 GeV). The dielectron trigger threshold is $E_T = 12$ GeV and the dimuon trigger threshold is $p_T = 13$ GeV (10 GeV in 2011) for both leptons. In addition, an asymmetric dimuon trigger and electron–muon triggers are used as described in Ref. [100]. The efficiency for events passing the offline analysis cuts is selected by at least one of the above triggers is between 97% and 100%.

Muon and electron candidates are reconstructed as described in Section 2. In the region $|\eta| < 0.1$, which has limited MS coverage, ID tracks with $p_T > 15$ GeV are identified as muons if their calorimetric energy deposits are consistent with a minimum ionising particle. Only one muon per event is allowed to be reconstructed either in the MS alone or without MS information. For the 2012 data, the electron requirements are tightened in the transition region between the barrel and end-cap calorimeters ($1.37 < |\eta| < 1.52$), and the pixel-hit requirements are stricter to improve the rejection of photon conversions.

Each electron (muon) must satisfy $E_T > 7$ GeV ($p_T > 6$ GeV) and be measured in the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 2.47$ ($|\eta| < 2.7$). The highest-$p_T$ lepton in the quadruplet must satisfy $p_T > 20$ GeV, and the second (third) lepton must satisfy $p_T > 15$ GeV ($p_T > 10$ GeV). To reject cosmic rays, muon tracks are required to have a transverse impact parameter of less than 1 mm.

Multiple quadruplets within a single event are possible. For each quadruplet, the same-flavour, opposite-charge lepton pair with invariant mass closest to the $Z$ boson mass ($m_Z$) is referred to as the leading lepton pair. Its invariant mass, denoted by $m_{12}$, is required to be between 50 GeV and 106 GeV. The invariant mass of the other (sub-leading) lepton pair, $m_{34}$, is required to be in the range $m_{34} < 115$ GeV. The value of $m_{12}$ is 12 GeV for a reconstructed four-lepton mass $m_{4\ell} < 140$ GeV, rises linearly to 50 GeV at $m_{4\ell} = 190$ GeV, and remains constant for higher masses. If two or more quadruplets satisfy the above requirements, the one with $m_{34}$ closest to the $Z$ boson mass is selected. For further analysis, events are classified in four sub-channels, $4\ell$, $2e2\mu$, $2\mu2\mu$, $4\mu$.

The $Z + \text{jets}$ and $t\bar{t}$ background contributions are reduced by applying requirements on the lepton transverse impact parameter divided by its uncertainty, $|d_0|/\sigma_d$. This ratio must be smaller than 3.5 for muons and smaller than 6.5 for electrons (the electron impact parameter is affected by bremsstrahlung and thus its distribution has longer tails). In addition, leptons must satisfy isolation requirements based on tracking and calorimetric information, similar to those described in Section 4.1, as discussed in Ref. [2].

The impact of FSR photon emission on the reconstructed invariant mass is modelled using the MC simulation (PHOTOS), which reproduces the rate of collinear photons with $E_T > 1.3$ GeV in $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$ decays to within $\pm 5\%$ [101]. Leading muon pairs with $66$ GeV $< m_{12} < 89$ GeV are corrected for FSR by including any reconstructed photon with $E_T$ above 1 GeV lying close (typically within $\Delta R < 0.15$) to the muon tracks, provided that the corrected $m_{12}$ satisfies $m_{12} < 100$ GeV. The MC simulation predicts that about 4% of all $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\mu$ candidate events should have this correction.

For the 8 TeV data, the signal reconstruction and selection efficiency for a SM Higgs boson with $m_H = 125$ GeV is 39% for the $4\mu$ sub-channel, 26% for the $2e2\mu/2\mu2e$ sub-channels and 19% for the $4e$ sub-channel.

The final discriminating variable in this analysis is the $4\ell$ invariant mass. Its resolution, which is improved by typically 15% by applying a $Z$-mass constrained kinematic fit to the leading lepton pair, is about 1.6 GeV, 1.9 GeV and 2.4 GeV for the $4\mu$, $2e2\mu/2\mu2e$ and $4e$ sub-channels, respectively, and for $m_{12} = 125$ GeV.

5.2. Event categorisation

To enhance the sensitivity to the individual production modes, events passing the above selection are assigned to one of three categories, named VBF-like, VH-like, and ggF-like. Events are VBF-like if the two highest $p_T$ jets are separated by more than three units in pseudorapidity and have an invariant mass greater than 350 GeV. Events that do not qualify as VBF-like are considered for the VH-like category. They are accepted in this category if they contain an additional lepton ($e$ or $\mu$) with $p_T > 8$ GeV, satisfying the same requirements as the four leading leptons. The remaining events are assigned to the ggF-like category. No classification based on the $4\ell$ flavour is made in the VBF-like and VH-like categories. Higgs boson production through VBF and VH is expected to account for about 60% and 70% of the total signal events in the VBF-like and VH-like categories, respectively. The signal-to-background ratio in the signal peak region is about five for the VBF-like category, about three for the VH-like category, and about 1.5 for the inclusive analysis.

5.3. Background estimation

The expected background yield and composition are estimated using the MC simulation for $ZZ^*$ production, and methods based on control regions (CRs) from data for the $Z + \text{jets}$ and $t\bar{t}$ processes [2]. The transfer factors used to extrapolate the background yields from the CRs to the signal region are obtained from the MC simulation and cross-checked with data. Since the background composition depends on the flavour of the sub-leading lepton pair, different approaches are followed for the $\ell\ell + \mu\mu$ and the $\ell\ell + ee$ final states.
The reducible $\ell \ell + \mu \mu$ background is dominated by $t\bar{t}$ and $Z + \text{jets}$ (mostly $Z\text{bb}$) events. A CR is defined by removing the isolation requirement for the muons of the sub-leading pair, and by requiring that at least one of them fails the transverse impact parameter selection. This procedure allows the $t\bar{t}$ and $Z + \text{jets}$ backgrounds to be estimated simultaneously from a fit to the $m_{12}$ distribution.

To determine the reducible $\ell \ell + ee$ background, a CR is formed by relaxing the selection criteria for the electrons of the sub-leading pair; each of these electrons is then classified as “electron-like” or “fake-like” based on requirements on appropriate discriminating variables [102]. The numbers of events with different combinations of “electron-like” or “fake-like” objects are then used to estimate the true composition of the CR (in terms of isolated electrons, non-prompt electrons from heavy-flavour decays, electrons from photon conversions and jets misidentified as electrons), from which the expected yields in the signal region can be obtained using transfer factors from the MC simulation.

Similar techniques are used to determine the backgrounds for the VBF-like and VH-like categories.

### 5.4. Systematic uncertainties

The dominant sources of systematic uncertainty affecting the $H \rightarrow ZZ^\pm$ 8 TeV analysis are listed in Table 6 (see Ref. [2] for the 7 TeV analysis). Lepton reconstruction, identification and selection efficiencies, as well as energy and momentum resolutions and scales, are determined using large control samples from the data, as described in Section 2. Only the electron uncertainty contributes significantly to the uncertainty on the signal yield.

The background uncertainty is dominated by the uncertainty on the transfer factors from the CRs to the signal region and the available number of events in the control regions.

The uncertainty on the population of the various categories (migration) comes mainly from the knowledge of the theoretical cross sections for the various production processes, the modelling of the underlying event and the knowledge of the jet energy scale.

The $H \rightarrow ZZ^\pm \rightarrow 4\ell$ mass measurement is discussed in Section 7.2. The main sources contributing to the electron energy scale uncertainty are described in Section 4.4; the largest impact (±0.4%) is on the $4\ell$ final state. Systematic uncertainties from the knowledge of the muon momentum scale (discussed in detail in Ref. [100]) are smaller. Mass scale uncertainties related to FSR and background contamination are below ±0.1%.

### 5.5. Results

The reconstructed four-lepton mass spectrum after all selections of the inclusive analysis is shown in Fig. 3. The data are compared to the (scaled) expected Higgs boson signal for $m_H = 124.3$ GeV and to the estimated backgrounds. At the maximum deviation from the background-only expectation (occurring at $m_W = 124.3$ GeV), the significance of the observed peak is 6.6σ for the combined 7 TeV and 8 TeV data, to be compared with 4.4σ expected from SM Higgs boson production at this mass. This result establishes a discovery-level signal in the $4\ell$ channel alone.

Table 7 presents the numbers of observed and expected events in the peak region. Out of a total of 32 events selected in the data, one and zero candidates are found in the VBF-like and VH-like categories, respectively, compared with an expectation of 0.7 and 0.1 events from the signal and 0.14 and 0.04 events from the background.

Additional interpretation of these results is presented in Section 7.

### 6. The $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow 4\ell \nu\nu$ channel

This decay mode provides direct access to the Higgs boson couplings to W bosons. Its rate is large, but a narrow mass peak cannot be reconstructed due to the presence of two neutrinos in the

---

**Table 6**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Uncertainty (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signal yield</td>
<td>±0.8 ±0.4 ±0.4 ±0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electron reconstruction and identification</td>
<td>±0.8 ±0.4 ±0.4 ±0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration between categories</td>
<td>±32/11/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZZ* contribution to WH-like cat.</td>
<td>±15/5/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZZ* contribution to VH-like cat.</td>
<td>±30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass measurement</td>
<td>±0.2 ±0.2 ±0.3 ±0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Table 7**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signal</th>
<th>ZZ*</th>
<th>Z + jets, $t\bar{t}$</th>
<th>Observed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4$\ell$</td>
<td>6.3 ± 0.8</td>
<td>2.8 ± 0.1</td>
<td>0.55 ± 0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2e2$\mu$/$2\mu$2e</td>
<td>7.0 ± 0.6</td>
<td>3.5 ± 0.1</td>
<td>2.11 ± 0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4$\ell$</td>
<td>2.6 ± 0.4</td>
<td>1.2 ± 0.1</td>
<td>1.11 ± 0.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
final state. The reconstructed topology consists of two opposite-charge leptons and a large momentum imbalance from the neutrinos. The dominant SM backgrounds are $W W$ (which includes $W W^*$), $t \bar{t}$ and $Wt$, all of which produce two $W$ bosons. The classification of events by jet multiplicity ($N_{\text{jet}}$) allows the control of the background from top quarks, which contains $b$-quark jets, as well as the extraction of the signal strengths for the ggF and VBF production processes. For the hypothesis of a SM Higgs boson, the spin-zero initial state and the $VBF$ production processes. For the hypothesis of a SM Higgs boson, the spin-zero initial state and the $VBF$ production processes.

For the hypothesis of a SM Higgs boson, the spin-zero initial state and the $VBF$ production processes. For the hypothesis of a SM Higgs boson, the spin-zero initial state and the $VBF$ production processes.

6.2. Event categorisation

The analysis is divided into categories with $N_{\text{jet}} = 0$, $N_{\text{jet}} = 1$, and $N_{\text{jet}} = 2$. In the $N_{\text{jet}} = 0$ analysis, $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$ $> 25$ GeV ($E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$ $> 45$ GeV and $p_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$ $> 45$ GeV) is required for $e \mu$, $(e/\mu)$ final states. The transverse momentum of the dilepton system is required to be large, $p_{\text{T}}^{\ell\ell} > 30$ GeV. For $e\mu$ events, the hadronic recoil is required to be typical of events with neutrinos in the final state, $f_{\text{rec}0} < 0.05$. Finally, the azimuthal separation between the $p_{\text{T}}^{\ell\ell}$ and $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$ vectors must satisfy $|\Delta \phi_{\ell\ell, E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}} | > \pi/2$, in order to remove potentially poorly reconstructed events.

In the $N_{\text{jet}} = 1$ analysis, the $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$ and $p_{\text{T}}^{\ell\ell}$ requirements are the same as for $N_{\text{jet}} = 0$, but the hadronic recoil threshold is looser, $f_{\text{rec}0} < 0.2$. The top-quark background is suppressed by rejecting events with a $b$-tagged jet. The $b$-tagging algorithm described in Section 2 is used, at an operating point with 85% efficiency for $b$-quark jets and a mis-tag rate of 11% for light-quark and gluon jets, as measured in a sample of simulated $t \bar{t}$ events. The $Z \rightarrow \tau \tau$ background in $e\mu$ final states is suppressed using an invariant mass $m_{\tau\tau}$ computed assuming that the neutrinos from $\tau$ decays are collinear with the charged leptons [105] and that they are the only source of $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$. The requirement $|m_{\tau\tau} - m_{\ell\ell}| > 25$ GeV is applied.

The $N_{\text{jet}} = 2$ analysis is optimised for the selection of the VBF production process. The two leading jets, referred to as "tagging jets", are required to have a large rapidity separation, $|\Delta y_{jj}| > 2.8$, and a high invariant mass, $m_{jj} > 500$ GeV. To reduce the contribution from ggF, events containing any jet with $p_{\text{T}} > 20$ GeV in the rapidity gap between the two tagging jets are rejected. Both leptons are required to be in the rapidity gap. The DY background is suppressed by imposing $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}} > 20$ GeV for $e\mu$, and $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}} > 45$ GeV and $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}_{\text{T,STV}} > 35$ GeV for $e\mu$. The same $Z \rightarrow \tau \tau$ veto and $b$-jet veto are applied as in the $N_{\text{jet}} = 1$ analysis. The $b$-tagging is further reduced by requiring a small total transverse momentum, $|p_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}| < 45$ GeV, where $p_{\text{T}}^{\ell\ell} = p_{\text{T}}^{\ell\ell} + 4 \text{ jets} + E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$, and $p_{\text{T}}^{4 \text{ jets}}$ is the vectorial sum of all jets in the event with $p_{\text{T}} > 25$ GeV.

The total signal selection efficiency for $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\ell e\mu$ events produced with $\ell = e, \mu$, including all the final state topologies considered, is about 5.3% at 8 TeV for a Higgs boson mass of 125 GeV. The dilepton transverse mass $m_{T}$ is the discriminating variable used in the fit to the data to extract the signal strength. It is defined as $m_{T} = ((E_{\text{T}}^{\ell\ell} + E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}) - |p_{\text{T}}^{\ell\ell}|^{1/2} - |E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}|^{1/2} \text{ with } E_{\text{T}}^{\ell\ell} = (|p_{\text{T}}^{\ell\ell}|^{2} + m_{\ell\ell}^{2})^{1/2}$. For the $e\mu$ channels with $N_{\text{jet}} < 1$, the fit is performed separately for events with $10$ GeV $< m_{\ell\ell} < 30$ GeV and events with $30$ GeV $< m_{\ell\ell} < 50$ GeV, since the signal-to-background ratio varies across the $m_{\ell\ell}$ distribution, as shown in Fig. 4.
6.3. Background estimation

The leading SM processes producing two isolated high-$p_T$ leptons and large values of $E_T^{miss}$ are $WW$ and top-quark production, where the latter includes (here and in the following) both $t\bar{t}$ and single top-quark processes ($tW$, $tb$ and $t\bar{b}$). These backgrounds, as well as $Z\to\tau\tau$, are normalised to the data in control regions defined by selections similar to those used for the signal region, but with some criteria reversed or modified to obtain signal-depleted samples enriched in particular backgrounds. The event yield in the CR (after subtracting contributions from processes other than the targeted one) is extrapolated to the signal region using transfer factors obtained from MC simulation.

Additional significant backgrounds arise from $W + jets$ and $Z/\gamma^*$, which are dissimilar to the signal but have large cross sections. A small fraction of these pass the event selection through rare final-state configurations and/or mis-measurements. This type of background is difficult to model reliably with the simulation and is therefore estimated mainly from data.

A third category of background consists of diboson processes with smaller cross sections, including $W\gamma$, $WZ$, and $ZZ$ (inclusively indicated in the following as Other $VV$), and the $WW$ background in the $N_{\text{jet}} \geq 2$ analysis. These processes are estimated using the MC simulation normalised to the NLO cross sections from MCFM [106], except for the $N_{\text{jet}} \geq 2$ $WW$ background, for which the cross section from the relevant MC generators (see Table 2) is used. The Other $VV$ processes all produce same-charge and opposite-charge lepton pairs, as does $W + jets$. The number and kinematic features of same-charge events which would otherwise pass the full event selection are compared to the above-mentioned predictions for these backgrounds, and good agreement is observed.

6.3.1. $W + jets$

The $W + jets$ background is estimated using a CR in the data in which one of the two leptons satisfies the identification and isolation criteria, and the other lepton (denoted here as “anti-identified”) fails these criteria but satisfies looser requirements. All other analysis selections are applied. The contribution to the signal region is then obtained by scaling the number of events in the CR by transfer factors, defined as the ratio of the number of fully identified lepton candidates passing all selections to the number of anti-identified leptons. The transfer factors are obtained from a dijet sample as a function of the $p_T$ and $\eta$ of the anti-identified lepton.

6.3.2. $Z/\gamma^*$

The $Z/\gamma^*$ yield in the $ee/\mu\mu$ channels for $N_{\text{jet}} \leq 1$ is estimated using the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ requirement efficiency in data for DY and non-DY processes. The former is measured in $ee/\mu\mu$ events in the $Z$ boson peak region. The latter is measured in the $ee/\mu\mu$ signal region, taking advantage of the fact that the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ distribution is nearly identical for all non-DY processes including the signal, as well as for $ee$ and $ee/\mu\mu$ final states. The DY normalisation in the $ee/\mu\mu$ signal region can then be extracted, given the two measured efficiencies and the total number of events in the $ee/\mu\mu$ signal region before and after the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ requirement. For the $ee/\mu\mu$ channels with $N_{\text{jet}} \geq 2$, the two-dimensional distribution ($E_T^{\text{miss}}, m_T$) in the data is used to estimate the total $Z/\gamma^*$ yield, as in Ref. [103].

The $Z \to \tau\tau$ background is normalised to the data using an $ee$ CR defined by the back-to-back configuration of the leptons, $\Delta\phi_{\ell\ell} > 2.8$. For the corresponding CR with $N_{\text{jet}} \geq 2$, no $b$-tagged jets are allowed, and $|p_T^{\text{miss}}| < 45$ GeV is required in addition, in order to reduce the contamination from top-quark production. A separate CR in the $Z \to \ell\ell$ peak region is used to correct the modelling of the VBF-related event selection.

6.3.3. $t\bar{t}$ and single top-quark

The top-quark background for the $N_{\text{jet}} = 0$ category is estimated using the procedure described in Ref. [2], namely from the number of events in data with any number of reconstructed jets passing the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ requirement (a sample dominated by top-quark production), multiplied by the fraction of top-quark events with no reconstructed jets obtained from simulation. This estimate is corrected using a CR containing $b$-tagged jets. The top-quark background in the $N_{\text{jet}} \geq 1$ channels is normalised to the data in a CR defined by requiring exactly one $b$-tagged jet and all other signal selections except for the requirements on $\Delta\phi_{\ell\ell}$ and $m_T$.

6.3.4. $WW$

The $WW$ background for $N_{\text{jet}} \leq 1$ is normalised using CRs in data defined with the same selection as the signal region except that the $\Delta\phi_{\ell\ell}$ requirement is removed and the $m_T$ bound is modified: for $N_{\text{jet}} = 0$ $50$ GeV $\leq m_T < 100$ GeV is required, while for $N_{\text{jet}} = 1$ $m_T > 80$ GeV is used to define the CR. Fig. 4 shows the $m_T$ distribution of $ee$ events with $N_{\text{jet}} = 0$ in the $8$ TeV data. The level of agreement between the predicted background and the data for $m_T > 100$ GeV, a region with negligible signal contribution, validates the $WW$ background normalisation and the extrapolation procedure based on the simulation. The $N_{\text{jet}} \geq 2$ prediction is taken from simulation because of the difficulty of isolating a kinematic region with enough events and small contamination from the top-quark background.

Fig. 4. The $m_T$ distribution of $ee$ events with $N_{\text{jet}} = 0$ for the $8$ TeV $H \to WW^* \to e\mu\nu\nu + 0$ jets analysis. The events with $m_T < 50$ GeV correspond to the signal region except that the $m_T < 1.8$ requirement is not applied here, and the events with $50$ GeV $< m_T < 100$ GeV correspond to the $N_{\text{jet}} = 0$ $WW$ control region. The signal is stacked on top of the background. The hatched area represents the total uncertainty on the sum of the signal and background yields from statistical, experimental, and theoretical sources. The lower part of the figure shows the ratio of the data to the predicted background. For comparison, the expected ratio of the signal plus background to the background alone is also shown.
6.4. Systematic uncertainties

The systematic uncertainties affecting this analysis are summarized here and described in detail in Ref. [107]. The leading sources, i.e., those resulting in at least 4% uncertainty on the total signal or background yield in at least one \(N_{\text{jet}}\) category, are reported in Table 8.

Theoretical uncertainties on the inclusive signal production cross sections are given in Section 2. Additional, larger uncertainties from the QCD renormalisation and factorisation scales affect the predicted distribution of the ggF signal among the exclusive jet bins and can produce migration between categories. These uncertainties are estimated using the HNNLO program [108, 109] and the method reported in Ref. [110]. Their impact on the signal yield is summarised in Table 8, in addition to other non-negligible contributions (parton shower and underlying event modelling, as well as acceptance uncertainties due to QCD scale variations).

The experimental uncertainties affecting the expected signal and background yields are associated primarily with the reconstruction and identification efficiency, and with the energy and momentum scale and resolution, of the final-state objects (leptons, jets, and \(E^\text{miss}\)) as described in Section 2. The largest impact on the signal expectation comes from the knowledge of the jet energy scale and resolution (up to 6% in the \(N_{\text{jet}} \geq 2\) channel).

For the backgrounds normalised using control regions, uncertainties come from the numbers of events in the CR and the contributions of other processes, as well as the transfer factors to the signal region.

For the \(WW\) background in the \(N_{\text{jet}} \leq 1\) final states, the theoretical uncertainties on the transfer factors (evaluated according to the prescription of Ref. [15]) include the impact of missing higher-order QCD corrections, PDF variations, and MC modelling choices. They amount to ±2% and ±4–6% relative to the predicted \(WW\) background in the \(N_{\text{jet}} = 0\) and \(N_{\text{jet}} = 1\) final states, respectively.

For the \(WW\) yield in the \(N_{\text{jet}} \geq 2\) channel, which is obtained from simulation, the total uncertainty is 42% for QCD production with gluon emission, and 11% for the smaller but non-negligible contribution from purely electroweak processes; the latter includes the size of possible interference with Higgs boson production through VBF. The resulting uncertainties on the total background yield for all \(N_{\text{jet}}\) are quoted in Table 8.

The leading uncertainties on the top-quark background are experimental. The b-tagging efficiency is the most important of these, and it appears in Table 8 primarily through its effect on this background. Theoretical uncertainties on the top-quark background have the greatest relative importance, ±2% on the total background yield, for \(N_{\text{jet}} \geq 2\), and therefore do not appear in Table 8.

The \(W + \)jets transfer factor uncertainty (±(40–45)%), dominated by differences in the jet composition between dijet and \(W + \)jets samples as observed in the MC simulation. The uncertainties on the muon and electron transfer factors are treated as correlated among the \(N_{\text{jet}}\) categories but uncorrelated with each other. The impact on the total background uncertainty is at most ±2.5%.

The main uncertainty on the DY contribution in the \(N_{\text{jet}} \leq 1\) channels comes from the use of the \(f_{\text{recoil}}\) efficiency evaluated at the peak of the Z boson mass distribution for the estimation of the DY contamination in the low-\(m_{\text{tag}}\) region.

The uncertainty on the \(m_{\text{tag}}\) shape for the total background, which is used in the fit to extract the signal yield, is dominated by the uncertainties on the normalisations of the individual components. The only explicit \(m_{\text{tag}}\) shape uncertainty is applied to the \(WW\) background, and is determined by comparing several generators and showering algorithms.

The estimated background contributions with their uncertainties are listed in Table 9.

6.5. Results

Fig. 5 shows the transverse mass distributions after the full selection for \(N_{\text{jet}} \leq 1\) and \(N_{\text{jet}} \geq 2\) final states. The regions with \(m_{\text{tt}} > 150\) GeV are depleted of signal contribution; the level of agreement of the data with the expectation in these regions, which are different from those used to normalise the backgrounds, illustrates the quality of the background estimates. The expected numbers of signal and background events at 8 TeV are presented in Table 9. The VBF process contributes 2%, 12% and 81% of the predicted signal in the \(N_{\text{jet}} = 0, 1,\) and \(\geq 2\) final states, respectively. The total number of observed events in the same \(m_{\text{tt}}\) windows as in Table 9 is 218 in the 7 TeV data and 1195 in the 8 TeV data.

An excess of events relative to the background-only expectation is observed in the data, with the maximum deviation (4.1σ) occurring at \(m_{\text{tt}} = 140\) GeV. For \(m_{\text{tt}} = 125.5\) GeV, a significance of 3.8 \(\sigma\) is observed, compared with an expected value of 3.8 \(\sigma\) for a SM Higgs boson.

Additional interpretation of these results is presented in Section 7.

7. Higgs boson property measurements

The results from the individual channels described in the previous sections are combined here to extract information about the Higgs boson mass, production properties and couplings.

7.1. Statistical method

The statistical treatment of the data is described in Refs. [111–115]. Hypothesis testing and confidence intervals are based on the profile likelihood ratio \(\Delta(\alpha)\). The latter depends on one or more parameters of interest \(\alpha\), such as the Higgs boson production strength \(\mu\) normalised to the SM expectation (so that \(\mu = 1\) corresponds to the SM Higgs boson hypothesis and \(\mu = 0\) to the background-only hypothesis), mass \(m_{\text{H}}\), coupling strengths \(\kappa\), ratios of coupling strengths \(\lambda\), as well as on nuisance parameters \(\theta\).
with $N$ variables (chosen to be the ground probability density functions (pdfs) in the discriminating of the above equation are built using sums of signal and back-

timated background are shown, compared to the expected sources. In the lower part of (a), the residuals of the data with respect to the es-
of the signal and background yields from statistical, experimental, and theoretical
	on top of the background, and in (b) is shown separately for the ggF and VBF pro-

Higgs boson.

\[ \alpha = \frac{L(\hat{\theta}, \hat{\theta})}{L(\hat{\theta}, \hat{\theta})} \]  

The likelihood functions in the numerator and denominator of the above equation are built using sums of signal and back-
ground probability density functions (pdfs) in the discriminating variables (chosen to be the $\gamma\gamma$ and $4\ell$ mass spectra for $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ and $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$, respectively, and the $m_T$ distribution for the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow 0/1$ jets channel).

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c}
\text{Observed} & N_{jjt} = 0 & N_{jjt} = 1 & N_{jjt} \geq 2 \\
\text{Signal} & 100 \pm 21 & 41 \pm 14 & 10.9 \pm 1.4 \\
\text{Total background} & 739 \pm 39 & 261 \pm 28 & 36 \pm 4 \\
\text{WW} & 551 \pm 41 & 108 \pm 40 & 4.1 \pm 1.5 \\
\text{Other VV} & 58 \pm 8 & 27 \pm 6 & 1.9 \pm 0.4 \\
\text{Top-quark} & 39 \pm 5 & 95 \pm 28 & 5.4 \pm 2.1 \\
\text{Z+jets} & 30 \pm 10 & 12 \pm 6 & 22 \pm 3 \\
\text{W+jets} & 61 \pm 21 & 20 \pm 5 & 0.7 \pm 0.2 \\
\end{array}
\]

For the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow 0/1$ jets analysis of the 8 TeV data, the numbers of events ob-
served in the data and expected from signal ($m_H = 125.5$ GeV) and backgrounds inside the transverse mass regions $0.75m_{jj} < m_H < m_H$ for $N_{jjt} \leq 1$ and $m_{jj} < 1.2m_H$ for $N_{jjt} \geq 2$. All lepton flavours are combined. The total background as well as its main components are shown. The quoted uncertainties include the statistical and systematic contributions, and account for anticorrelations between the background predictions.

7.2. Mass and production strength

The mass of the new particle is measured from the data using the two channels with the best mass resolution, $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ and $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$. In the two cases, $m_H = 126.8 \pm 0.2 (stat) \pm 0.7 (sys)$ GeV and $m_H = 124.3^{+0.5}_{-0.3} (stat) -0.5_{-0.7} (sys)$ GeV are obtained from fits to the mass spectra.

To derive a combined mass measurement, the profile likelihood ratio $\Lambda(m_H)$ is used; the signal production strengths $\mu_{\gamma\gamma}$ and $\mu_{4\ell}$, giving the signal yield yields measured in the two individual channels normalised to the SM expectation, are treated as independent nuisance parameters in order to allow for the possibility of different deviations from the SM prediction in the two decay modes. The ratios of the cross sections for the various production modes for each channel are fixed to the SM values. It was verified that this restriction does not cause any bias in the results. The combined mass is measured to be:

\[
m_H = 125.5 \pm 0.2 (stat) +0.5_{-0.6} (sys) \text{ GeV.}  
\]

As discussed in Sections 4.4 and 5.4, the main sources of systematic uncertainty are the photon and lepton energy and momentum scales. In the combination, the consistency between the muon and electron final states in the $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$ channel causes a $\sim 0.8\sigma$ adjustment of the overall $e/\mu$ energy scale, which translates into a $\sim 350$ MeV downward shift of the fitted $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ value with respect to the value measured from the $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ channel alone.

To quantify the consistency between the fitted $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ and $m_{4\ell}$ masses, the data are fitted with the profile likelihood ratio $\Lambda(\Delta m_H)$, where the parameter of interest is the mass difference $\Delta m_H = m_{\gamma\gamma} - m_{4\ell}$. The average mass $m_H$ and the signal strengths...
where the production strengths measured in the three channels and in their main analysis categories are presented. The signal production strength normalised to the SM expectation, obtained by combining the three channels, is:

$$\mu = 1.33 \pm 0.14(\text{stat}) \pm 0.15(\text{sys})$$  \hfill (4)

where the systematic uncertainty receives similar contributions from the theoretical uncertainty on the signal cross section (ggF QCD scale and PDF, see Table 1) and all other, mainly experimental, sources. The uncertainty on the mass measurement reported in Eq. (2) produces a ±3% variation of $\mu$. The consistency between this measurement and the SM Higgs boson expectation ($\mu = 1$) is about 7%; the use of a flat likelihood for the ggF QCD scale systematic uncertainty in the quoted ±σ interval yields a similar level of consistency with the $\mu = 1$ hypothesis. The overall compatibility between the signal strengths measured in the three final states and the SM predictions is about 14%, with the largest deviation (~1.9σ) observed in the $H \to \gamma\gamma$ channel. Good consistency between the measured and expected signal strengths is also found for the various categories of the $H \to \gamma\gamma$, $H \to ZZ \to 4\ell$ and $H \to WW^* \to \ell\nu\ell\nu$ analyses, which are the primary experimental inputs to the fit discussed in this section. If the preliminary $H \to \tau\tau$ [117] and $H \to bb$ [118] results, for which only part of the 8 TeV dataset is used (13 fb$^{-1}$), were included, the combined signal strength would be $\mu = 1.23 \pm 0.18$.

### 7.3. Evidence for production via vector-boson fusion

The measurements of the signal strengths described in the previous section do not give direct information on the relative contributions of the different production mechanisms. Furthermore, fixing the ratios of the production cross sections for the various processes to the values predicted by the Standard Model may conceal tensions between the data and the theory. Therefore, in addition to the signal strengths for different decay modes, the signal strengths of different production processes contributing to the same decay mode$^5$ are determined, exploiting the sensitivity offered by the use of event categories in the analyses of the three channels.

The data are fitted separating vector-boson-mediated processes, VBF and VH, from gluon-mediated processes, ggF and tth, involving fermion (mainly top-quark) loops or legs.$^5$ Two signal strength parameters, $\mu_{ggF+tth} = \mu_{ggF}$ and $\mu_{VBF+VH} = \mu_{VBF} = \mu_{VH}$, which scale the SM-predicted rates to those observed, are introduced for each of the considered final states ($f = H \to \gamma\gamma$, $H \to ZZ \to 4\ell$, $H \to WW^* \to \ell\nu\ell\nu$). The results are shown in Fig. 7. The 95% CL contours of the measurements are consistent with the SM expectation. A combination of all channels would provide a higher-sensitivity test of the theory. This can be done in a model-independent way (i.e., without assumptions on the Higgs boson branching ratios) by measuring the ratios $\mu_{VBF+VH}/\mu_{ggF+tth}$ for the individual final states and their combination. The results of the fit to the data with the likelihood $A(\mu_{ggF+tth}/\mu_{ggF+tth})$ are shown in Fig. 8. Good agreement with the SM expectation is observed for the individual final states and their combination.

To test the sensitivity to VBF production alone, the data are also fitted with the ratio $\mu_{VBF}/\mu_{ggF+tth}$. A value

$$\mu_{VBF}/\mu_{ggF+tth} = 1.4^{+0.4}_{-0.3}(\text{stat})^{+0.6}_{-0.4}(\text{sys})$$  \hfill (5)

$^4$ Such an approach avoids model assumptions needed for a consistent parametrisation of production and decay modes in terms of Higgs boson couplings.

$^5$ Such a separation is possible under the assumption that the kinematic properties of these production modes agree with the SM predictions within uncertainties.

Fig. 7. Likelihood contours in the \((\mu_{ggF+ttH}^{/VBF+VH}, \mu_{VBF+VH}^{/ggF+ttH})\) plane for the final states \(f = H \to \gamma\gamma, H \to ZZ^* \to 4\ell, H \to WW^* \to 4\ell\) and a Higgs boson mass \(m_H = 125.5\) GeV. The sharp lower edge of the \(H \to ZZ^* \to 4\ell\) contours is due to the small number of events in this channel and the requirement of a positive pdf. The best fits to the data (×) and the 68% (full) and 95% (dashed) CL contours are indicated, as well as the SM expectation (+).

\[\mu_{ggF+ttH}^{/VBF+VH} = 1.4_{-0.9}^{+1.0}\]

\[\mu_{VBF+VH}^{/ggF+ttH} = 0.6_{-0.9}^{+0.4}\]

\[\mu_{VBF+VH}^{/ggF+ttH} = 2.0_{-1.0}^{+2.2}\]

\[\mu_{VBF+VH}^{/ggF+ttH} = 1.4_{-0.7}^{+0.6}\]

\(\bar{s} = 7\) TeV \(\int L = 46.4.8 \, fb^{-1}\)

\(\bar{s} = 8\) TeV \(\int L = 20.7 \, fb^{-1}\)

Fig. 8. Measurements of the \(\mu_{VBF+VH}^{/ggF+ttH}\) ratio for the individual diboson final states and their combination, for a Higgs boson mass \(m_H = 125.5\) GeV. The best-fit values are represented by the solid vertical lines, with the total ±1σ and ±2σ uncertainties indicated by the dark- and light-shaded bars, respectively, and the statistical uncertainties by the superimposed horizontal error bars. The numbers in the second column specify the contributions of the statistical uncertainty (top), the total (experimental and theoretical) systematic uncertainty (middle), and the theoretical uncertainty (bottom) on the signal cross section (from QCD scale, PDF, and branching ratios) alone. For a more complete illustration, the distributions of the likelihood ratios from which the total uncertainties are extracted are overlaid.

is obtained from the combination of the three channels (Fig. 9), where the main components of the systematic uncertainty come from the theoretical predictions for the ggF contributions to the various categories and jet multiplicities and the knowledge of the jet energy scale and resolution. This result provides evidence at the 3.3σ level that a fraction of Higgs boson production occurs through VBF (as Fig. 9 shows, the probability for a vanishing value of \(\mu_{VBF}\) is 0.04%). The inclusion of preliminary \(H \to \tau\tau\) results [117], which also provide some sensitivity to this ratio, would give a significance of 3.1σ.

7.4. Couplings measurements

Following the approach and benchmarks recommended in Ref. [119], measurements of couplings are implemented using a leading-order tree-level motivated framework. This framework is based on the following assumptions:

- The signals observed in the different search channels originate from a single resonance. A mass of 125.5 GeV is assumed here; the impact of the uncertainty reported in Eq. (2) on the results discussed in this section is negligible.
- The width of the Higgs boson is narrow, justifying the use of the zero-width approximation. Hence the predicted rate for a given channel can be decomposed as follows:

\[\sigma \cdot B (i \to H \to f) = \frac{\sigma_i \cdot \Gamma_f}{\Gamma_H}\]

where \(\sigma_i\) is the production cross section through the initial state \(i\), \(B\) and \(\Gamma_f\) are the branching ratio and partial decay width into the final state \(f\), respectively, and \(\Gamma_H\) the total width of the Higgs boson.

- Only modifications of coupling strengths are considered, while the tensor structure of the Lagrangian is assumed to be the same as in the Standard Model. This implies in particular that the observed state is a CP-even scalar.\(^6\)

The coupling scale factors \(\kappa_j\) are defined in such a way that the cross sections \(\sigma_j\) and the partial decay widths \(\Gamma_f\) associated

\(^6\) The spin-CP hypothesis is addressed in Ref. [10].
7.4.1. Couplings to fermions and bosons

In some of the fits, $k_H$ and the effective scale factors $k_F$ and $k_g$ for the loop-induced $H \to \gamma \gamma$ and $gg \to H$ processes are expressed as a function of the more fundamental factors $k_W$, $k_\tau$, $k_t$, $k_b$, and $k_\tau$ (only the dominant fermion contributions are indicated here for simplicity). The relevant relationships are:

$$k_F^2(k_b, k_t) = \frac{k_f^2 \cdot \sigma_{ggH}^t + k_b^2 \cdot \sigma_{ggH}^b + k_t \cdot \sigma_{ggH}^{\tau t}}{\sigma_{ggH}^t + \sigma_{ggH}^b + \sigma_{ggH}^{\tau t}}.$$  

$$k_\gamma^2(k_b, k_t, k_\tau, k_W) = \sum_{i,j} k_i k_j \cdot \frac{\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}^{ij}}{\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}^{\gamma\gamma}}.$$  

$$k_H^2 = \sum_{j=WW',ZZ',b\bar{b},\tau^{\pm}\tau^{\mp}} \frac{\Gamma_{H}^{SM}}{\Gamma_{H}^{SM}}.$$  

where $\sigma_{ggH}$ and $\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}^{ij}$ are obtained from theory [14,119].

Results are extracted from fits to the data using the profile likelihood ratio $\Lambda(k)$, where the $k_i$ couplings are treated either as parameters of interest or as nuisance parameters, depending on the measurement.

The measurements made for the various measurements are summarised in Table 10 and discussed in the next sections together with the results.

7.4.1. Couplings to fermions and bosons

The first benchmark considered here (indicated as model 1 in Table 10) assumes one coupling scale factor for fermions, $k_F$, and one for bosons, $k_V$; in this scenario, the $H \to \gamma \gamma$ and $gg \to H$ loops and the total Higgs boson width depend only on $k_F$ and $k_V$, with no contributions from physics beyond the Standard Model (BSM). The strongest constraint on $k_F$ comes indirectly from the $gg \to H$ production loop.

Fig. 10 shows the results of the fit to the data for the three channels and their combination. Since only the relative sign of $k_F$ and $k_V$ is physical, in the following $k_V > 0$ is assumed. Some sensitivity to this relative sign is provided by the negative interference between the $W$ boson loop and $t$-quark loop in the $H \to \gamma \gamma$ decay.

The data prefer the minimum with positive relative sign, which is consistent with the SM prediction, but the local minimum with negative sign is also compatible with the observation (at the $\sim 2\sigma$ level). The two-dimensional compatibility of the SM prediction with the best-fit value is 12%. The 68% CL intervals of $k_F$ and $k_V$, obtained by profiling over the other parameter, are:

$$k_F \in [0.76, 1.18].$$  

$$k_V \in [1.05, 1.22].$$

with similar contributions from the statistical and systematic uncertainties.

In this benchmark model, the assumption of no contributions from new particles to the Higgs boson width provides strong constraints on the fermion coupling $k_F$, as about 75% of the total SM width comes from decays to fermions or involving fermions. If this assumption is relaxed, only the ratio $\lambda_{FV} = k_F/k_V$ can be measured (benchmark model 2 in Table 10), which still provides useful information on the relationship between Yukawa and gauge couplings. Fits to the data give the following 68% CL intervals for $\lambda_{FV}$ and $k_{VV} = k_V/k_H$ (when profiling over the other parameter):

$$\lambda_{FV} \in [0.70, 1.01].$$  

$$k_{VV} \in [1.13, 1.45].$$

The two-dimensional compatibility of the SM prediction with the best-fit value is 12%. These results also exclude vanishing couplings of the Higgs boson to fermions (indirectly, mainly through the $gg \to H$ production loop) by more than $5\sigma$.

7.4.2. Ratio of couplings to the $W$ and $Z$ bosons

In the Standard Model, custodial symmetry imposes the constraint that the $W$ and $Z$ bosons have related couplings to the

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**Table 10**

Summary of the coupling benchmark models discussed in this Letter, where $\lambda_{ij} = k_i/k_j$, $k_{ii} = k_i/k_i$, and the functional dependence assumptions are: $k_V = k_W = k_Z$, $k_F = k_t = k_b = k_\tau$ (and similarly for the other fermions), $k_F = k_F(k_\bar{t}, k_t)$, $f_i = k_i(k_\bar{t}, k_t)$, and $k_H = k_H(k_\bar{t}, k_t)$. The tick marks indicate which assumptions are made in each case. The last column shows, as an example, the relative couplings involved in the $gg \to H \to \gamma\gamma$ process, see Eq. (7), and their functional dependence in the various benchmark models.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Couplings to fermions and bosons</th>
<th>Parameters of interest</th>
<th>Functional assumptions</th>
<th>Example: $gg \to H \to \gamma\gamma$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Couplings to fermions and bosons</td>
<td>$k_{FF}$, $k_{FF}$</td>
<td>$\sqrt{2}$, $\sqrt{2}$, $\sqrt{2}$, $\sqrt{2}$</td>
<td>$k_{FF}^2$ $k_{FF}^2$ $(k_{FF}, k_{FF})$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Custodial symmetry</td>
<td>$\lambda_{VV}, k_{VV}$</td>
<td>$\sqrt{2}$, $\sqrt{2}$, $\sqrt{2}$, $\sqrt{2}$</td>
<td>$k_{VV}^2$, $k_{VV}^2$ $(k_{VV}, k_{VV}, k_{VV}, k_{VV})$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$k_F \bar{t}, k_F \bar{t}, k_Z$</td>
<td>$\lambda_{FZ}$</td>
<td>$\sqrt{2}$, $\sqrt{2}$, $\sqrt{2}$, $\sqrt{2}$</td>
<td>$k_{FZ}^2$, $k_{FZ}^2$ $(k_{FZ}, k_{FZ}, k_{FZ}, k_{FZ})$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$k_F \bar{F}, k_F \bar{F}, k_Z$</td>
<td>$\lambda_{FZ}$</td>
<td>$\sqrt{2}$, $\sqrt{2}$, $\sqrt{2}$, $\sqrt{2}$</td>
<td>$k_{FZ}^2$, $k_{FZ}^2$ $(k_{FZ}, k_{FZ}, k_{FZ}, k_{FZ})$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Vertex loops</td>
<td>$k_F, k_F$</td>
<td>1, 1, $-$, $-$, $-$, $-$, $-$</td>
<td>$k_F^2 k_{FZ}^2 (k_F, k_F)$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Higgs boson, \( g_{VV} \sim m_V^2 / v \) (where \( v \) is the vacuum expectation value of the Higgs field), and that \( \rho = m_W^2 / (m_Z^2 \cdot \cos^2 \theta_W) \) (where \( \theta_W \) is the weak Weinberg angle) is equal to unity (as measured at LEP [120]). The former constraint is tested here by measuring the ratio \( \lambda_{WW} = \kappa_W / \kappa_Z \).

The simplest and most model-independent approach is to extract the ratio of branching ratios normalised to their SM expectation, \( \lambda_{WW} = B(H \to WW^*) / B(H \to ZZ^*) \cdot B_{SM}(H \to ZZ^*) / B_{SM}(H \to WW^*) \), from the measured inclusive rates of the \( H \to WW^* \) and \( H \to ZZ^* \) channels. A fit to the data with the likelihood \( A(\lambda_{WW}) \), where \( \mu_{BGF+HTR} \cdot B(H \to ZZ^*) / B_{SM}(H \to ZZ^*) \) and \( \mu_{VBF+VH} / \mu_{BGF+HTR} \) are profiled, gives \( \lambda_{WW} = 0.81^{+0.16}_{-0.15} \).

A more sensitive measurement can be obtained by also using information from \( WH \) and \( ZH \) production, from the VBF process (which in the SM is roughly 75% W-fusion and 25% Z-fusion mediated) and from the \( H \to \gamma \gamma \) decay mode. A fit to the data using benchmark model 3 in Table 10 gives the likelihood curve shown in Fig. 11, with \( \lambda_{WW} \in [0.61, 1.04] \) at the 68% CL, dominated by the statistical uncertainty; the other parameters, \( \kappa_{WW} \) and \( \kappa_{ZZ} \), are profiled. The three-dimensional compatibility of the SM prediction with the best-fit value is 19%.

Potential contributions from BSM physics affecting the \( H \to \gamma \gamma \) channel could produce apparent deviations of the ratio \( \lambda_{WW} \) from unity even if custodial symmetry is not broken. It is therefore desirable to decouple the observed \( H \to \gamma \gamma \) event rate from the measurement of \( \lambda_{WW} \). This is done with an extended fit for the ratio \( \lambda_{WW} \), where one extra degree of freedom (\( \lambda_{ZZ} = \kappa_Y / \kappa_Z \)) absorbs possible BSM effects in the \( H \to \gamma \gamma \) channel (benchmark model 4 in Table 10). This measurement yields:

\[
\lambda_{WW} = 0.82 \pm 0.15 \tag{13}
\]

and a four-dimensional compatibility of the SM prediction with the best-fit value of 20%.

### 7.4.4. Summary

The results of the measurements of the coupling scale factors discussed in the previous sections, obtained under the assumptions detailed in Section 7.4 and Table 10, are summarised in Fig. 13. The measurements in the various benchmark models are strongly correlated, as they are obtained from fits to the same experimental data. A simple \( \chi^2 \)-like compatibility test with the SM is therefore not meaningful.

The coupling of the new particle to gauge bosons \( \kappa_Y \) is constrained by several channels, directly and indirectly, at the \( \pm10\% \) level. Couplings to fermions with a significance larger than 5\( \sigma \) are indirectly observed mainly through the gluon-fusion production process, assuming the loop is dominated by fermion exchange. The ratio of the relative couplings of the Higgs boson to the \( W \) and \( Z \) bosons, \( \kappa_{WW} / \kappa_{ZZ} \), is measured to be consistent with unity, as predicted by custodial symmetry. Under the hypothesis that all couplings of the Higgs boson to the known particles are fixed to their SM values, and assuming no BSM contributions to the Higgs boson width, no significant anomalous contributions to the \( gg \to H \) and \( H \to \gamma \gamma \) loops are observed.

### 8. Conclusions

Data recorded by the ATLAS experiment at the CERN Large Hadron Collider in 2011 and 2012, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of up to 25 fb\(^{-1} \), at \( \sqrt{s} = 7 \) TeV and \( \sqrt{s} = 8 \) TeV, have been analysed to determine several properties of the recently discovered Higgs boson using the \( H \to \gamma \gamma \), \( H \to ZZ^* \to 4\ell \) and \( H \to WW^* \to \ell \nu \ell \nu \) decay modes. The reported results include measurements of the mass and signal strength, evidence for production through vector-boson fusion, and constraints on couplings to bosons and fermions as well as on anomalous contributions to loop-induced processes. The precision exceeds previously published results in several cases. All measurements are consistent with expectations for the Standard Model Higgs boson.
Fig. 13. Summary of the measurements of the coupling scale factors for a Higgs boson with mass $m_H = 125.5$ GeV. The best-fit values are represented by the solid vertical lines, with the $\pm 1\sigma$ and $\pm 2\sigma$ uncertainties given by the dark- and light-shaded bands, respectively. For a complete illustration, the distributions of the likelihood ratios from which the total uncertainties are extracted are overlaid. The measurements in the various benchmark models, separated by double horizontal lines, are strongly correlated.

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