

Search for new physics in bosonic final states at the LHC

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A summary of recent searches by the ATLAS, CMS and LHCb experiments at the LHC for new physics signatures that involve the production of bosons is given. The results are based on the first data collected at the LHC in 2015 at a center of mass energy of 13 TeV, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 2.2-3.2/fb. Statistical combinations with previous data collected at 8 TeV are also presented. Particular focus is given to two hints of resonances in di-boson final states at 750 GeV and 2 TeV.

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1. Introduction

After the discovery of the Higgs boson, the primary goal of the ATLAS [1], CMS [2] and LHCb [3] experiments is the discovery of new physics beyond the standard model (BSM). In 2015, the LHC produced proton-proton collisions at a center of mass energy of 13 TeV for the very first time, allowing to explore new physics signatures at yet higher energies than reachable in the 2012 run of the LHC at a center of mass energy of 8 TeV. Sensitivity to new physics signatures with invariant masses above ~ 1 TeV is already better than in 2012 and thus territory for discoveries, taking into account that the amount of data collected in 2015 corresponding to an the integrated luminosity of 2.3-3.2/fb for ATLAS and CMS is about 1/6 of that collected in 2012.

Due to their potential relation to the electroweak symmetry breaking mechanism, new physics signatures that involve the production of bosons are of particular interest. Multiple models that offer a solution to the hierarchy problem, including super symmetry, extra dimensions and compositeness, predict new resonances decaying to combinations of γ , W, Z or Higgs bosons. Theories with hidden-sector particles that may resolve our current lack of evidence for a dark matter particle candidate, predict new low mass bosons. Therefore, ATLAS, CMS and LHCb have a wide program of searches for signatures that involve the production of bosons that is summarized in this contribution.

Recent excitement in di-boson searches came from a hint of an excess in the $\gamma\gamma$ invariant mass spectrum at 750 GeV in the 2015 data, seen by ATLAS with a local significance of 3.9σ and by CMS with 3.4σ . Also a hint of an excess at ~ 2 TeV, seen by ATLAS in 2012 data with a local significance of 3.4σ in the WZ invariant mass spectrum and by CMS with 2.2σ in the WH invariant mass spectrum, raised high interest in the analysis of the 2015 data, presented here.

| Signature | final state and references |
|----------------|---|
| $\gamma\gamma$ | $\gamma\gamma$ (ATLAS 13 TeV) [4, 5], $\gamma\gamma$ (CMS 13 TeV) [6, 7], $\gamma\gamma$ (ATLAS 8 TeV) [8, 9], $\gamma\gamma$ (CMS 8 TeV) [10, 11] |
| γZ | γZ (ATLAS 13 TeV) [12], γqq (CMS 13 TeV) [13], γll (CMS 8+13 TeV) [14] γll (ATLAS 8 TeV) [15] |
| WW/WZ/ZZ | $ll/l\nu/\nu\nu/qq+qq$ (ATLAS 13 TeV) [16], $l\nu/qq+qq$ (CMS 13 TeV) [17, 18], $ll/l\nu/\nu\nu/qq+qq/bb$ (CMS 8+13 TeV) [19] |
| WH/ZH | $ll/l\nu/\nu\nu+bb$ (ATLAS 13 TeV) [20], $ll/l\nu/\nu\nu+bb$ (CMS 13 TeV) [21], $ll/l\nu/\nu\nu/qq+qq/bb$ (CMS 8+13 TeV) [19] |
| HH | bbbb (ATLAS 13 TeV) [22] |

Table 1: List of recent searches for resonant boson pair production with high invariant masses at ATLAS and CMS.

This contribution therefore focuses on $\gamma\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ resonance searches at energies above ~ 200 GeV and resonant W/Z/H boson pair production at energies beyond ~ 1 TeV. In this regime of invariant resonance masses, the two outgoing W/Z/H bosons obtain a large Lorentz boost that leads to a special signature in the detector. Since the two products from the W/Z/H boson decay are close-by in angle, they require special identification techniques explained further in Section 2. Table 1 summarizes the most recent searches for resonant boson pair production at the time of

this conference that are detailed in this contribution. In addition, a recent search for a low mass new boson resonance [23] is discussed, illustrating a complementary approach to the search for new physics. The program of lower mass $W/Z/H$ boson pair production searches is summarized in another contribution to these proceedings with focus on BSM Higgs searches.

2. Boosted boson identification

In more than 60% of the cases, $W/Z/H$ bosons decay into a quark anti-quark pair, which makes the reconstruction of such decays an essential ingredient for searches involving these bosons. For highly boosted $W/Z/H$ bosons the shower of hadrons originating from the quark anti-quark pair merges into a single large radius jet of particles. Such jets can be distinguished from background jets initiated from single quarks or gluons by means of jet substructure techniques. Both ATLAS and CMS use two distinct jet substructure properties to identify boosted $W/Z/H$ bosons, shown in Fig. 1; firstly, the reconstructed mass of a jet, and secondly, an additional observable that quantifies how likely a jet is composed of two hard structures rather than just one.

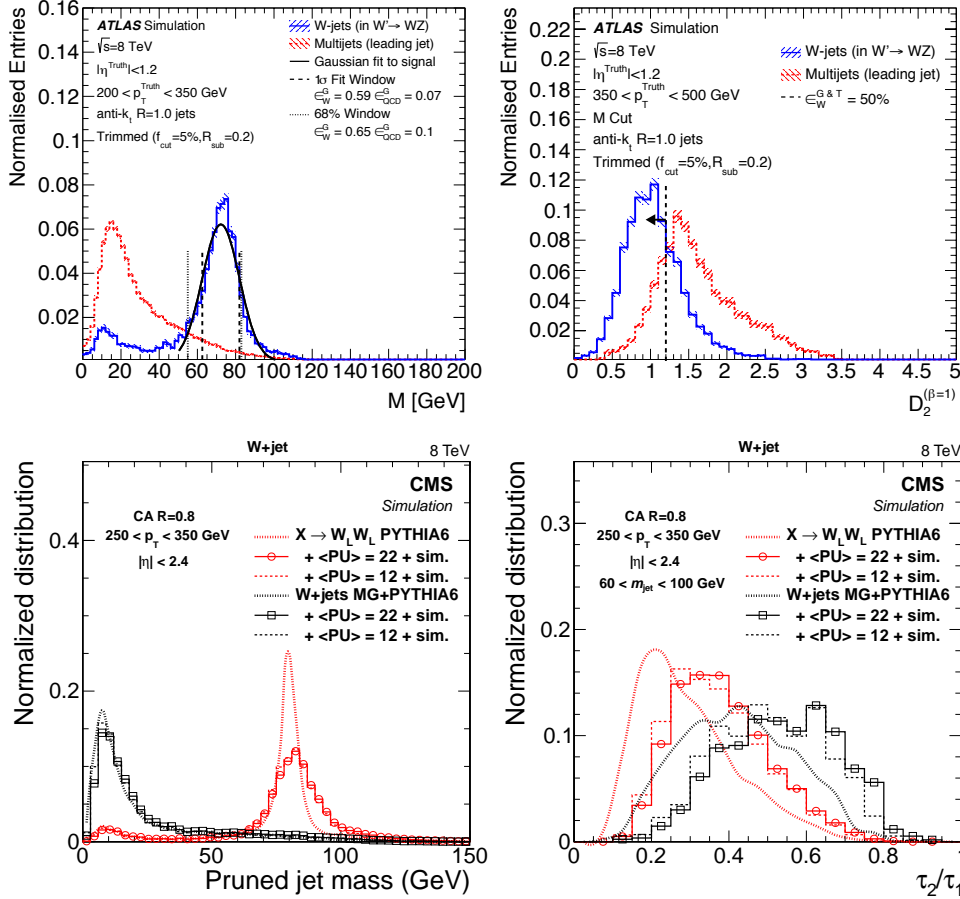


Figure 1: Boosted boson tagging observables used by (top) ATLAS [24] and (bottom) CMS [25].

In ATLAS, the jet mass is reconstructed using the trimming technique [24], that removes soft QCD radiation from the jet and thereby significantly reduces the jet mass of single quark or gluon

jets, while maintaining the jet mass of boosted $W/Z/H$ jets that contain two hard structures. CMS uses the pruning technique [25] to reconstruct the jet mass that similarly removes soft large-angle radiation from the jet, obtaining similar rejection power. To quantify the probability of a jet to be composed of two hard structures rather than just one, ATLAS relies on an energy correlation ratio D_2 , while CMS relies on the N-subjettiness ratio τ_2/τ_1 , again obtaining similar rejection power.

For the identification of $Z \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ and $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ decays, both ATLAS [26] and CMS [27] use special b-tagging techniques adapted to these final states, where either two small radius trackjets (ATLAS) or two subjets (CMS) inside the large radius jet are examined to determine whether they contain particles from a displaced B-meson decay.

3. Di-photon resonances

ATLAS has performed two complementary analyses to search for high mass resonances decaying to $\gamma\gamma$, shown in Fig. 2. One analysis is optimized to search for spin-0 resonances, while the other is optimized for spin-2 resonances. The analyses also rely on different background estimation strategies, serving as robust cross check for each other.

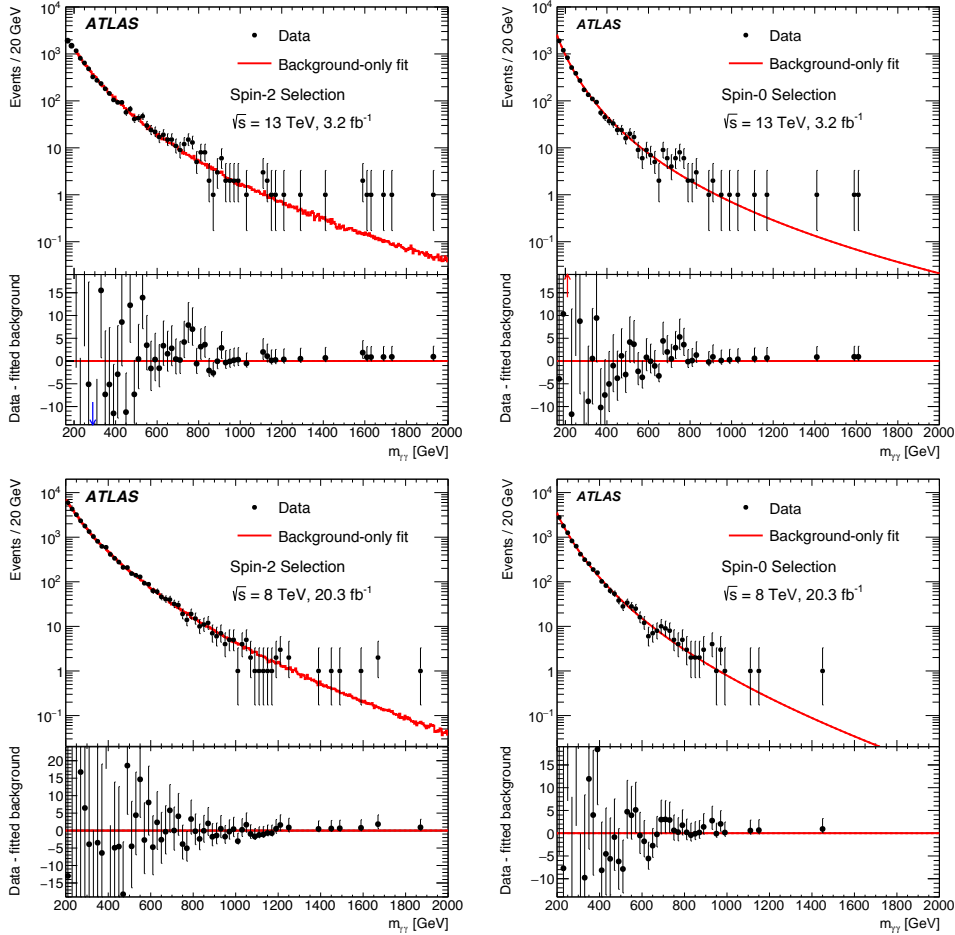


Figure 2: Di-photon invariant mass spectra of the ATLAS searches at 13 TeV and 8 TeV [5].

In the spin-0 analysis, events with two photons with $E_T > 40(30)$ GeV and $E_T > 0.4(0.3)m_{\gamma\gamma}$ are selected. The latter cut is optimized for the decay kinematics of a spin-0 resonance and enhances the sensitivity. The background is estimated from a signal + background fit, where the background is described by a smooth function: $f_{(k)}(x; b, a_k) = N(1 - x^{1/3})^b x^{\sum_{j=0}^k a_j (\log x)^j}$ with $x = \frac{m_{\gamma\gamma}}{\sqrt{s}}$, $k = 0$. This function models the sum of the main background component from standard model $\gamma\gamma$ production and also γ +jets and QCD multijet production, where a jet is misidentified as a γ .

In the spin-2 analysis, events with two photons with $E_T > 55$ GeV are selected and no additional selection specific to the resonance kinematics is applied. The $\gamma\gamma$ background is estimated from a NLO theory prediction, while the γ +jets and QCD multijets background are obtained from sidebands in γ isolation.

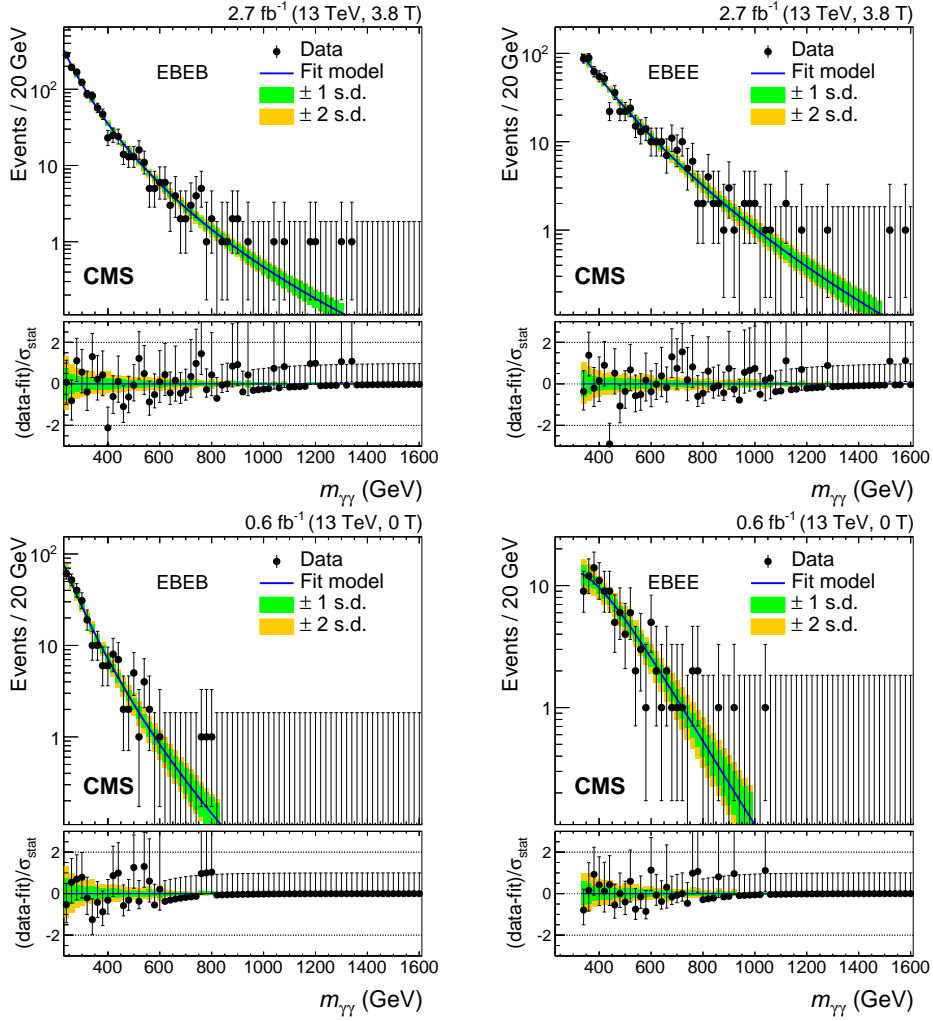


Figure 3: Di-photon invariant mass spectra of the CMS search at 13 TeV [7].

CMS performs a common analysis for spin-0 and spin-2 resonances, shown in Fig. 3. Events with two photons with $E_T > 75$ GeV are selected. At least one γ is required to be reconstructed in the barrel of the electromagnetic calorimeter with $|\eta| < 1.44$, where energy resolution is best. Events are categorized according to second photon, that may be either in the barrel or endcap

($1.57 < |\eta| < 2.5$). In addition events are further categorized according to the state of the CMS magnet, that was switched on in 2.7/fb of the data and off in 0.6/fb collected in 2015. The background is estimated from signal + background fit, where the background is described by a smooth function: $f(m_{\gamma\gamma}) = m_{\gamma\gamma}^{a+b \times \log(m_{\gamma\gamma})}$.

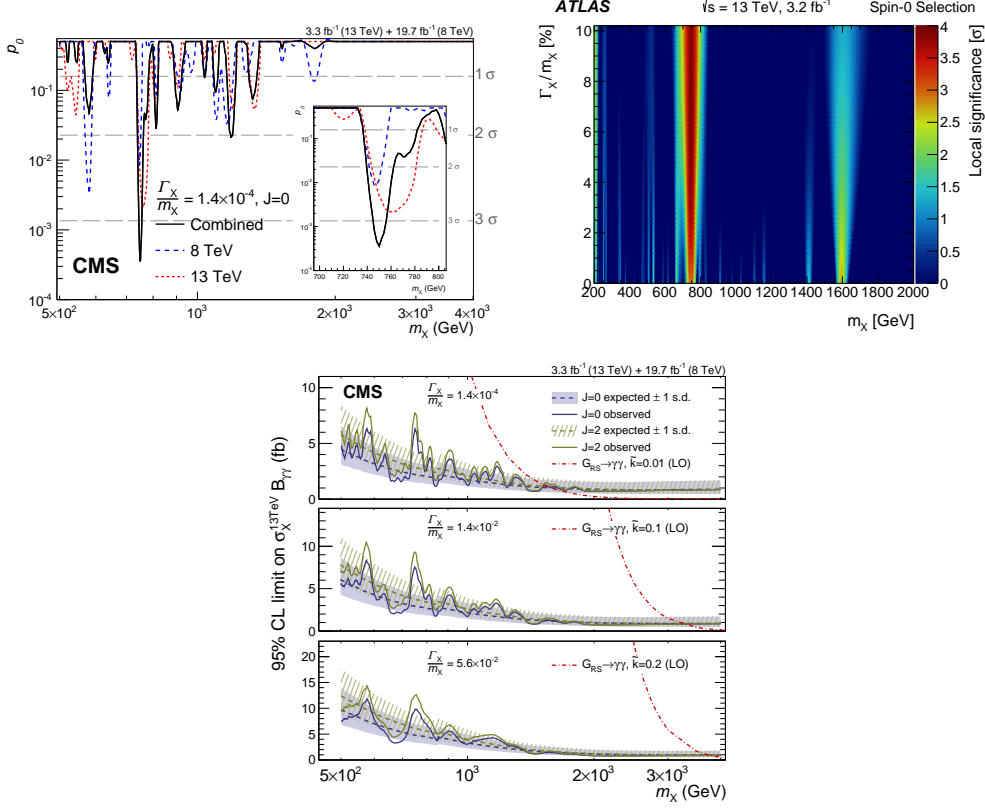


Figure 4: (top left) Combined significance as a function of resonance mass of the 8 TeV and 13 TeV di-photon searches from CMS under the narrow width hypothesis [7]. (top right) Significance as a function of resonance mass and width of the 13 TeV di-photon searches from ATLAS [5]. (bottom) Upper cross section limit on spin-0 and spin-2 resonances under three different width hypotheses from the combined 8 and 13 TeV CMS searches [7].

The searches were performed under various resonance width hypotheses from narrower than experimental resolution up to a width of $\Gamma/M \leq 10\%$ and the resulting limits and significances are shown in Fig. 4. Under a spin-0 hypothesis, ATLAS observes the largest local significance of 3.9σ (2.1σ) for a resonance at 750 GeV with 6% width, and CMS observes the largest local significance of 2.9σ ($<1\sigma$) at 760 GeV with 1.4% width. Similar significances are obtained under the spin-2 hypothesis.

ATLAS quantifies the consistency of the 8 and 13 TeV data, and finds values between 1.2σ under the hypothesis of a gluon-fusion produced spin-0 resonance and 3.3σ for a qq-annihilation produced spin-2 resonance at 750 GeV. CMS performed a statistical combination of the 8 and 13 TeV data analyses, resulting in an overall local (global) significance of 3.4σ (1.6σ) for a spin-2 Randall–Sundrum graviton (produced in a mixture of qq-annihilation and gluon-fusion) at 750 GeV.

4. Z+photon resonances

CMS has recently performed a search for spin-0 resonances decaying to $Z\gamma \rightarrow qq\gamma$, shown in Fig. 5. Events are required to have at least one γ with $p_T > 180$ GeV and $p_T > 0.34 \times M_{Z\gamma}$. In addition one Z-boson candidate is required, that is identified with an R=0.8 jet with $p_T > 200$ GeV, $75 < m_{pruned} < 105$ GeV. Events are organized in two categories according to b-tagging requirements applied to the two subjets of the Z-boson candidate jet, to enhance sensitivity by explicitly selecting $Z \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ events with low background. The background is estimated from a smooth signal+background fit with the background function: $\frac{dN}{M_{Z\gamma}} = P_0 \times \left(\frac{M_{Z\gamma}}{\sqrt{s}}\right)^{P_1+P_2 \times \log\left(\frac{M_{Z\gamma}}{\sqrt{s}}\right)}$.

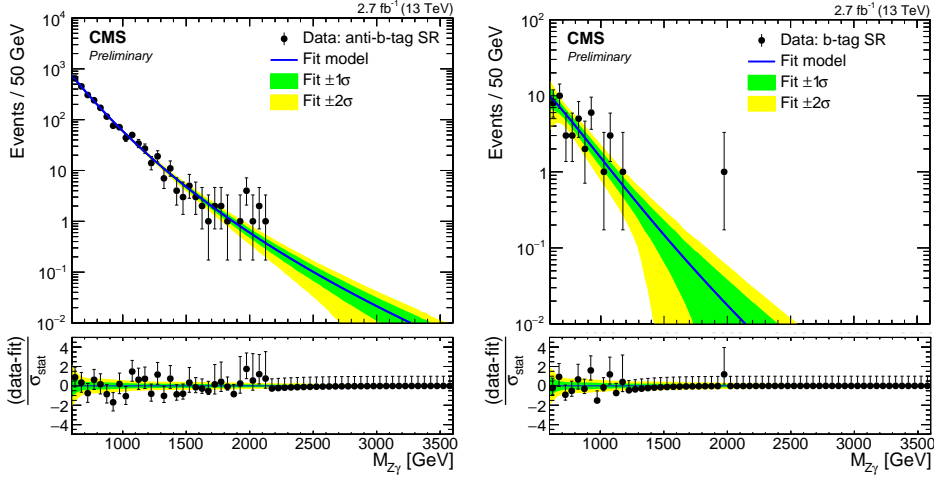


Figure 5: $Z\gamma \rightarrow qq\gamma$ invariant mass spectra of the CMS search at 13 TeV [13].

The cross section limits from the $Z\gamma$ resonance searches performed by CMS and ATLAS are summarized in Fig. 6. No significant excess is observed and 95% C.L. limits for two resonance widths scenarios ($\Gamma/m = 0.014\%$, 5.6%) are set. The searches for $Z\gamma \rightarrow qq\gamma$ have higher acceptance and thus give best sensitivity at high masses, while the $Z\gamma \rightarrow ll\gamma$ searches have a lower trigger thresholds and less background, thus give best sensitivity at low masses. CMS has also combined the searches for $Z\gamma \rightarrow ll\gamma$ at 8 TeV and 13 TeV, resulting in a significant gain in sensitivity.

5. WW/WZ/ZZ resonances

WW/WZ/ZZ resonances are searched for primarily in final states where at least one W/Z decays to quarks, which are the most sensitive final states at high invariant masses due to the high branching fraction of W/Z to quarks. All possible decay modes of the second W/Z boson are considered as shown in Fig. 7.

The search in the channel where both W/Z bosons decay to quarks from CMS, selects events with two R=0.8 jets with $65 < m_{pruned} < 105$ GeV. Events are organized in three categories depending on if the two pruned jet masses m_{J1} and m_{J2} are below or above 85 GeV to reach optimal sensitivity to WW, ZZ and WZ resonances (up to 30% improvement on cross section limit). Events are further categorized according to τ_2/τ_1 into a high purity sample that is most sensitive at low m_{JJ} and a high efficiency sample that is most sensitive at high m_{JJ} . To suppress the large QCD multijet

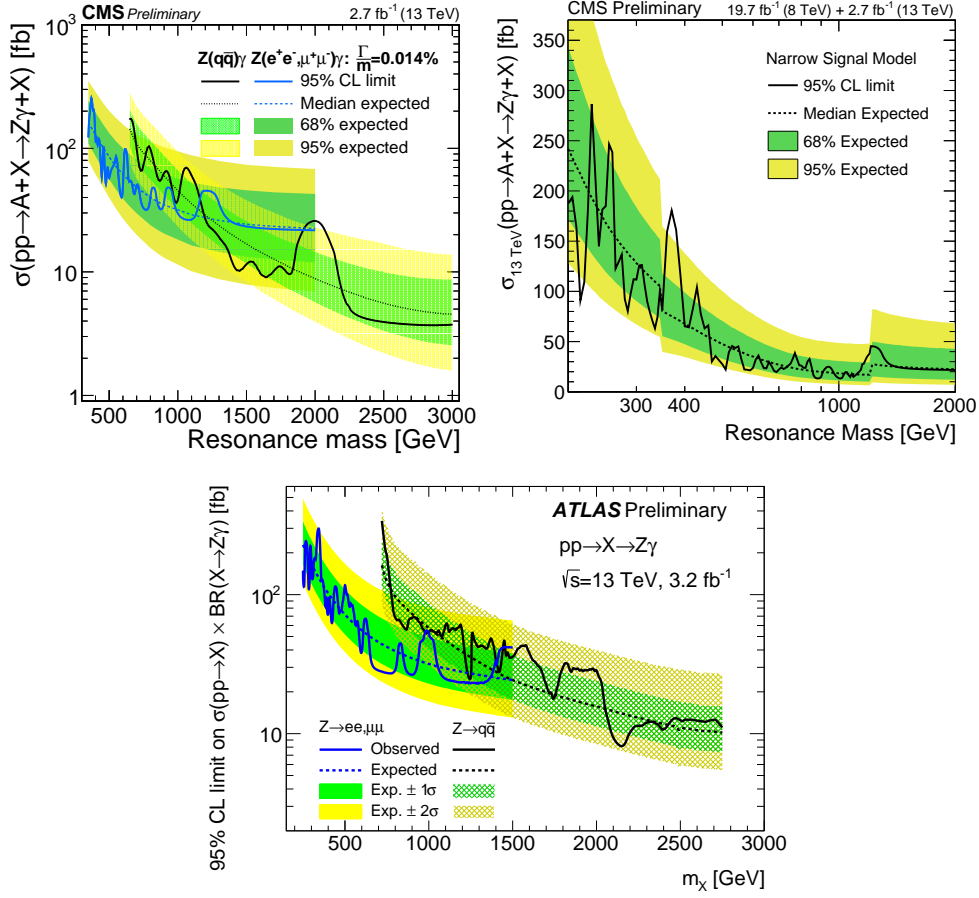


Figure 6: (top left) Cross section upper limits from the CMS $Z\gamma$ searches at 13 TeV [13]. (top right) Combined cross section upper limits from the CMS $Z\gamma \rightarrow l\ell\gamma$ searches at 8 TeV and 13 TeV [14]. (bottom) Cross section upper limits from the ATLAS $Z\gamma$ searches at 13 TeV [12].

background a requirement on the dijet kinematics $|\eta_{J1} - \eta_{J2}| < 1.3$ is applied. The background is estimated from signal + background fit with the function: $\frac{dN}{dm_{jj}} = \frac{P_0(1-m_{jj}/\sqrt{s})^{P_1}}{(m_{jj}/\sqrt{s})^{P_2}}$. It should be noted that no sign of an excess is observed at 2 TeV, where a 3.4σ hint if an excess was seen by ATLAS on the 2012 dataset.

In the searches with at least one lepton or neutrino in the final state from ATLAS, the W/Z decaying to quarks is identified with an $R=1.0$ jet with $p_T^J > 200$ GeV and a requirement on $D_2^{\beta=1}$ that yields 50% efficiency. Two separate analyses are performed for final states with W and Z , requiring $m_{W/Z} \pm 13 - 15$ GeV. Three analyses are performed depending on the decay of the second W/Z . The $Z \rightarrow \nu\nu$ analysis selects events with $E_T^{miss} > 250$ GeV, $\Delta\phi(E_T^{miss}, jets) > 0.6$ and $p_T^{miss} > 30$ GeV. The $W \rightarrow \mu\nu/e\nu$ analysis requires $p_T^{\mu/e} > 25$ GeV, $E_T^{miss} > 100$ GeV, $p_T^W > 200$ GeV and $> 0.4 \times m_{l\nu J}$, as well as a b-tag-veto against background from $t\bar{t}$ production. The $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu/ee$ analysis selects events with $p_T^{\mu/e} > 25$ GeV, $84 < m_{ee} < 99$ ($66 < m_{\mu\mu} < 116$), $p_T^Z > 0.4 \times m_{llj}$. The dominant backgrounds from V +jets ($t\bar{t}$) are estimated from data in m_J (b-tag) sidebands (and N_μ for the $\nu\nu$ channel).

CMS has also performed a search specifically optimized for a spin-2 resonance with a mass

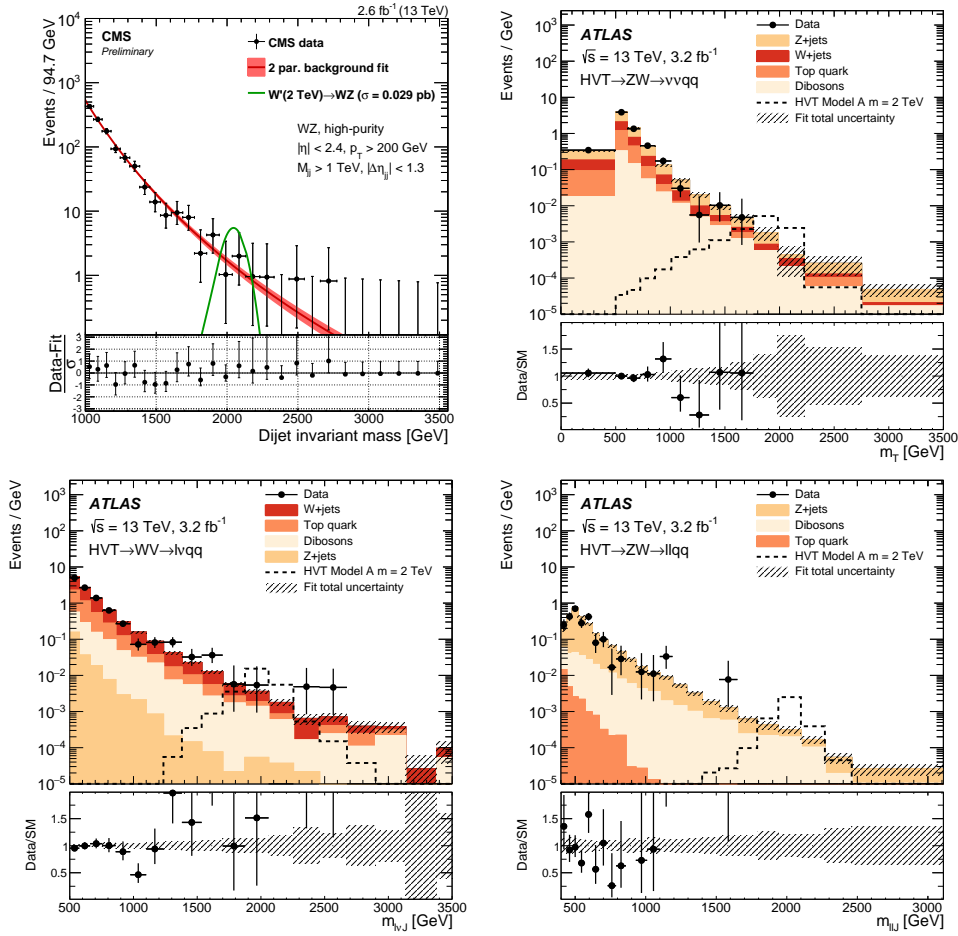


Figure 7: Selected WW/WZ/ZZ invariant mass distributions from the ATLAS [16] and CMS [17] searches at 13 TeV.

of 750 GeV, whose result is shown in Fig. 8. No excesses has been observed by CMS and ATLAS in the 13 TeV searches. Better mass limits than in the 2012 run of the LHC have been obtained, constraining e.g. the mass of a spin-1 resonance decaying to WZ to $m_{W' \rightarrow WZ} > 2.3$ TeV (HVT model B). A heavy vector triplet model (as predicted e.g. by a composite Higgs model) is also considered, which predicts both spin-1 W'^{\pm} and Z' (like ρ^{\pm}, ρ^0 in nuclear physics). In this model the most stringent mass limit is set at $m_{W'/Z' \rightarrow WZ/WW} > 2.6$ TeV (HVT model B). Also scenarios of spin-2 resonances, where a limit of $m_{G^*} > 1.06$ TeV ($k/M_{PL} = 1.0$) is set, and scenarios of spin-0 resonances, setting a limit of $m_S > 2.65$ TeV (unsuppressed scenario), have been evaluated.

6. WH/ZH resonances

WH/ZH resonances at high invariant masses are searched for primarily in final states where the Higgs decays to b-quarks due to the high branching fraction. In the CMS searches at 13 TeV, the Higgs boson is identified with a $R=0.8$ jet with $p_T^J > 200$ GeV and $105 < m_{pruned} < 135$, shown in Fig. 9. Events are categorized according to the number of b-tagged subjects (1 or 2) of the Higgs candidate jet, where the 2 b-tag category is most sensitive at low masses due to the good

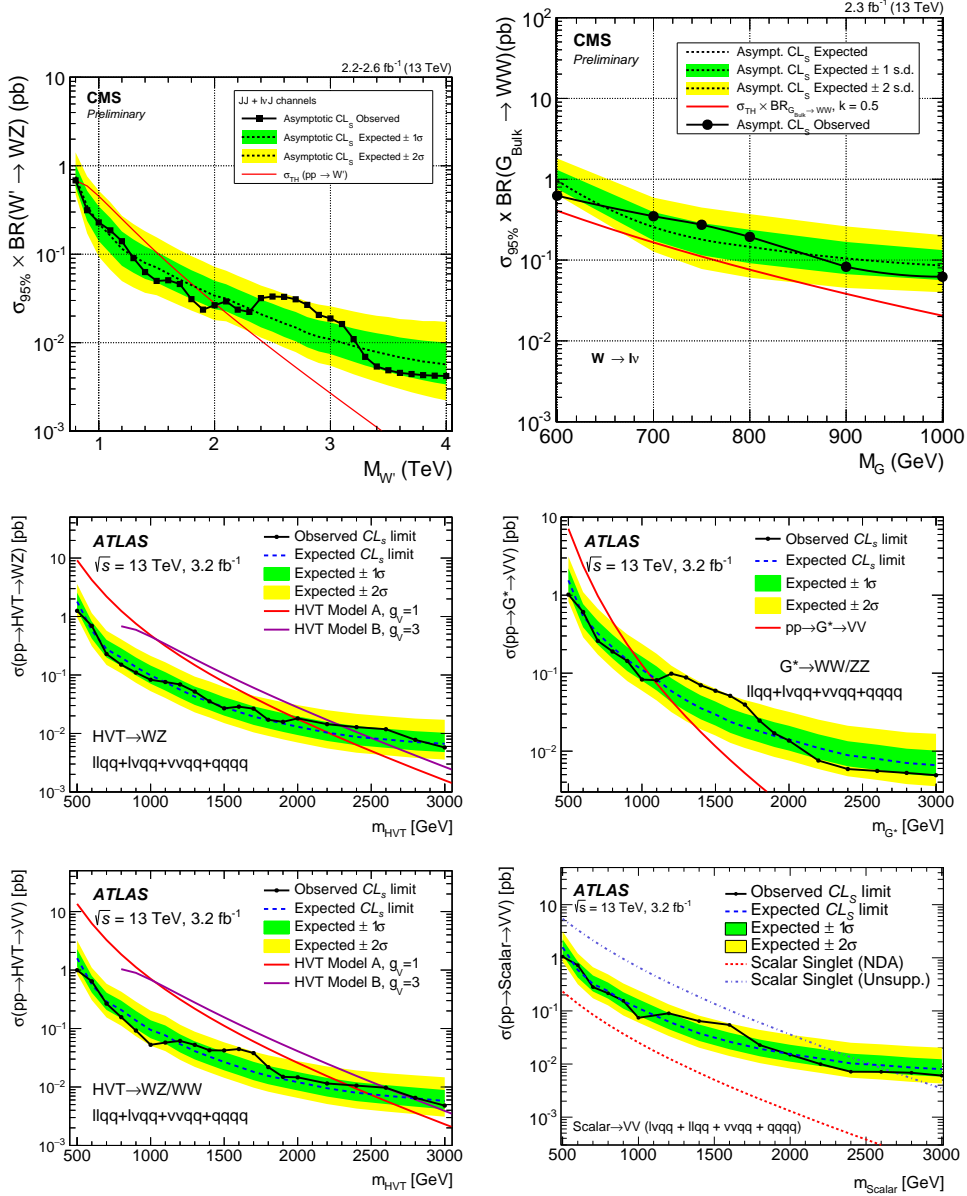


Figure 8: (top left) Cross section limit on spin-1 WZ resonances from the 13 TeV CMS search [17]. (top right) Cross section limit on spin-2 WW resonances from the 13 TeV CMS optimized for a mass of 750 GeV [18]. (middle left) Cross section limit on spin-1 WZ resonances from the 13 TeV ATLAS search [16]. (middle right) Cross section limit on spin-2 WW/ZZ resonances from the 13 TeV ATLAS search [16]. (bottom left) Cross section limit on spin-1 WZ/WW triplet resonances from the 13 TeV ATLAS search [16]. (bottom right) Cross section limit on spin-0 WW/ZZ resonances from the 13 TeV ATLAS search [16].

background rejection, while the 1 b-tag category recovers efficiency for optimal sensitivity at high masses. Otherwise the analysis strategy is very similar to the corresponding WW/WZ/ZZ analyses. The $\nu\nu$ analysis requires $E_T^{miss} > 200$ GeV, $\Delta\phi(E_T^{miss}, J) > 2$ and a b-tag-veto. The $\mu\nu/e\nu$ analysis requires $p_T^\mu > 55$ GeV ($p_T^e > 135$, $E_T^{miss} > 80$ GeV), $p_T^W > 200$ GeV and a b-tag-veto. The $\mu\mu/ee$ analysis requires $p_T^\mu > 55$ ($p_T^e > 135$) GeV, $70 < m_{ll} < 110$, $p_T^Z > 200$ GeV, $\Delta\phi(ll, J) > 2.5$. The

main backgrounds from V+jets ($t\bar{t}$) are estimated from data in m_J (b-tag-veto) sidebands.

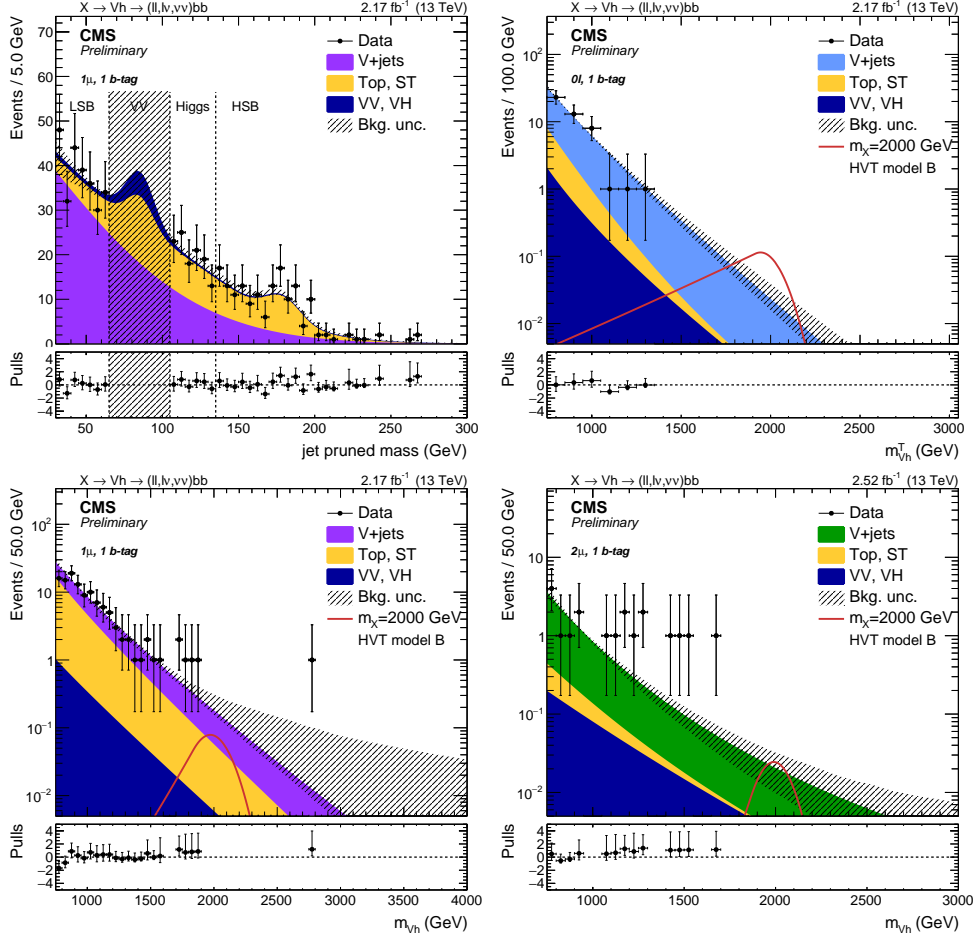


Figure 9: (top left) Pruned jet mass distribution used in the background estimation procedure of the WH/ZH CMS searches at 13 TeV [21]. (other plots) Selected WH/ZH invariant mass distributions from the CMS searches at 13 TeV [21].

No significant excess is observed over background as shown in Fig. 10. Spin-1 resonances with masses $m_{W'}$ < 2.2 TeV and $m_{Z'}$ < 1.7 TeV are excluded in HVT model B.

7. WW/WZ/ZZ/WH/ZH combination

Since the various di-boson search channels and also the two datasets at 8 and 13 TeV presented above have very similar sensitivity to the new physics scenarios of interest, CMS has performed a statistical combination of WW/WZ/ZZ/WH/ZH searches. W' , Z' , heavy vector triplet ($W'+Z'$) and bulk graviton interpretations are provided. Fig. 11 (top left) compares the sensitivity of various di-boson search channels on the 8 TeV dataset, where the combination can improve sensitivity over the most sensitive channel by a factor 2. Fig. 11 (top right) and (bottom left) compare the sensitivity of various di-boson search channels on the 8 and 13 TeV dataset. For a spin-1 resonance produced via qq-annihilation, 13 TeV searches are better than 8 TeV searches above ~ 1.5 TeV, while for

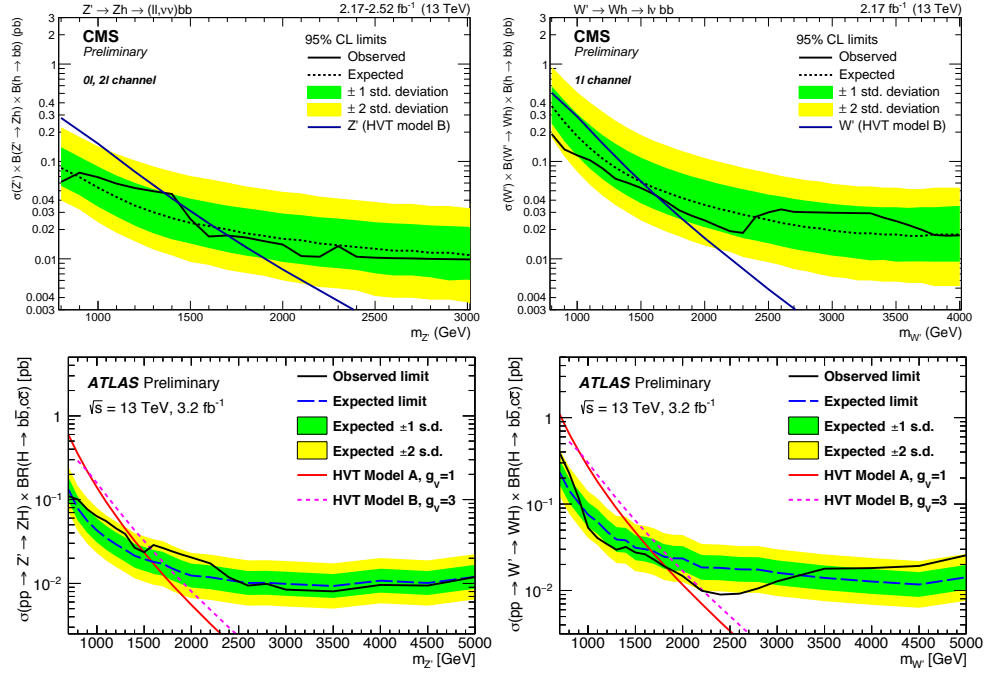


Figure 10: Cross section limit on spin-1 (left) WH and (right) ZH resonances from the 13 TeV (top) CMS [21] and (bottom) ATLAS [20] searches.

a spin-2 resonance produced via gluon-fusion, 13 TeV searches are better than 8 TeV searches already above ~ 0.5 TeV. Fig. 11 (bottom right) shows the limit on the coupling to fermions and coupling to bosons for a spin-1 vector triplet resonance from the combination of 8 and 13 TeV CMS searches.

The most significant excess from the 2012 dataset in CMS had a local significance of 2.2σ for a $W' \rightarrow WH$ at 1.8 TeV. Combining all 8 TeV VV+VH searches it remains 2.2σ in the W' hypothesis. Combining all 8+13 TeV VV+VH searches, it is reduced to 0.9σ in the W' hypothesis, therefore not supporting the existence of a resonance around 2 TeV.

8. HH resonances

HH resonances at high invariant masses are searched for primarily in final states where the Higgs bosons decay to b-quarks due to the high branching fraction. In the ATLAS searches at 13 TeV, spin 0 and 2 resonance decaying to $HH \rightarrow bbbb$ are searched for in two event topologies adapted to the boost of the Higgs boson, shown in Fig. 12. In the resolved analysis (low boost), 4 b-tagged jets with $m_{jj} \sim m_H$ are selected, while in the boosted analysis, two $R=1.0$ jets with $m_J \sim m_H$, which have 3-4 b-tagged matched trackjets associated, are required. The main backgrounds from QCD multijets and $t\bar{t}$ production are estimated from data in $N_{b\text{-tags}}$, m_{J1} and m_{J2} sidebands.

An upper limit on non-resonant HH production is set at $\sigma(pp \rightarrow hh \rightarrow bbbb) < 1.22$ pb, that can be compared to the corresponding standard model production cross section of $\sigma(pp \rightarrow hh \rightarrow bbbb) = 12.9^{+1.5}_{-1.6}$ fb.

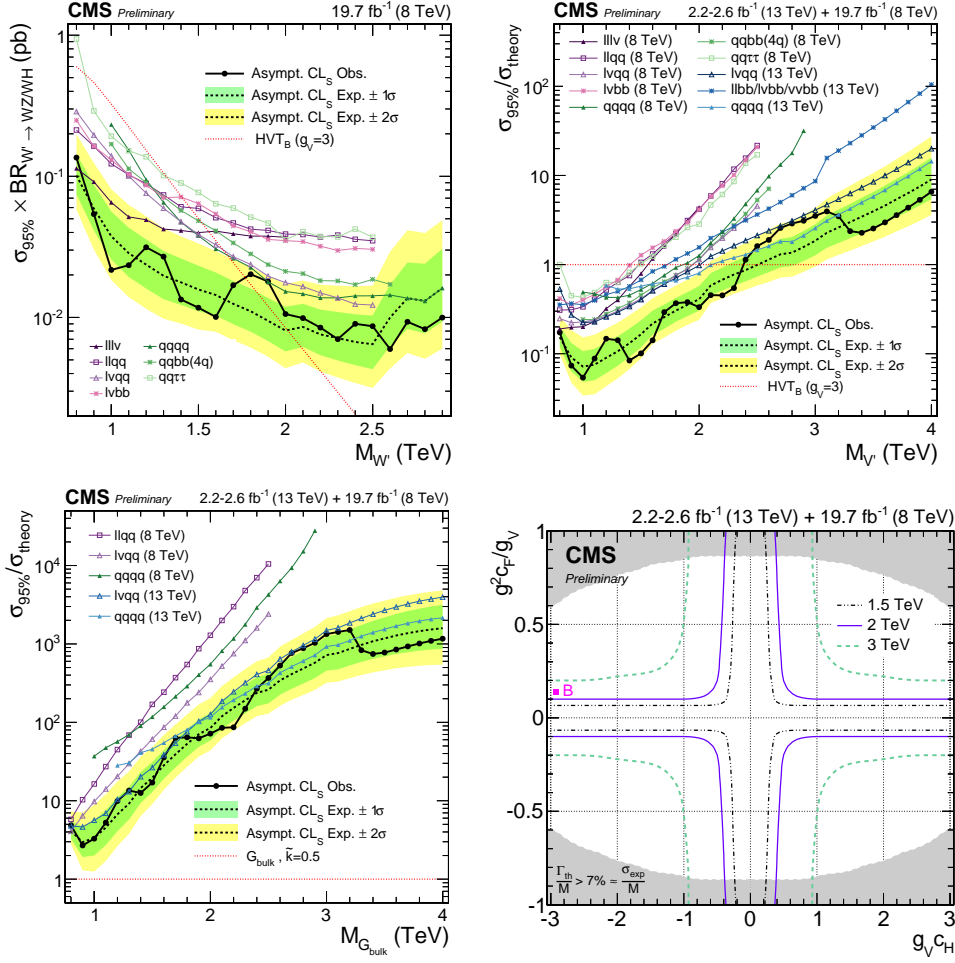


Figure 11: (top left) Cross section limit on spin-1 WZ resonances from the combination of 8 TeV CMS searches [19]. (top right) Cross section limit on spin-1 WZ resonances from the combination of 8 and 13 TeV CMS searches [19]. (bottom left) Cross section limit on spin-2 WW/ZZ resonances from the combination of 8 and 13 TeV CMS searches [19]. (bottom right) Limit on the coupling to fermions and coupling to bosons for a spin-1 vector triplet resonance from the combination of 8 and 13 TeV CMS searches [19].

9. Low mass boson resonances

Theories with hidden-sector particles that may resolve our current lack of evidence for a dark matter particle candidate, predict new low mass bosons. LHCb has searched for such low mass bosons $\chi \rightarrow \mu\mu$ with coupling to the top quark, with the production mechanism demonstrated in Fig. 13 (top). The search is sensitive to the χ decay time by reconstructing the $K^{*0} \rightarrow K^+\pi^-$ decay vertex. Background rejection is enhanced with an MVA-based selection and the resulting $\chi \rightarrow \mu\mu$ candidate mass spectrum is shown in Fig. 13 (bottom). The background is estimated from neighboring 4-6 bins in the mass spectrum. This search puts the most stringent constraints to date on the production cross section of such resonances covering masses in the range 200-4400 MeV.

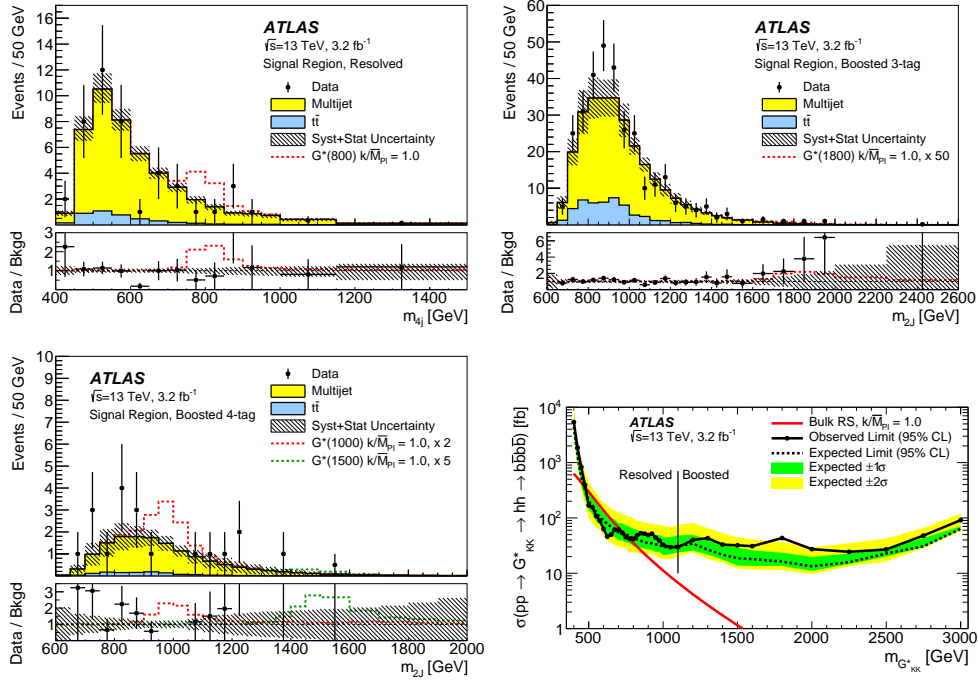


Figure 12: (top) and (bottom left) Selected HH invariant mass distributions from the ATLAS searches at 13 TeV [22]. (bottom right) Cross section limit on spin-2 HH resonances from the 13 TeV ATLAS search [22].

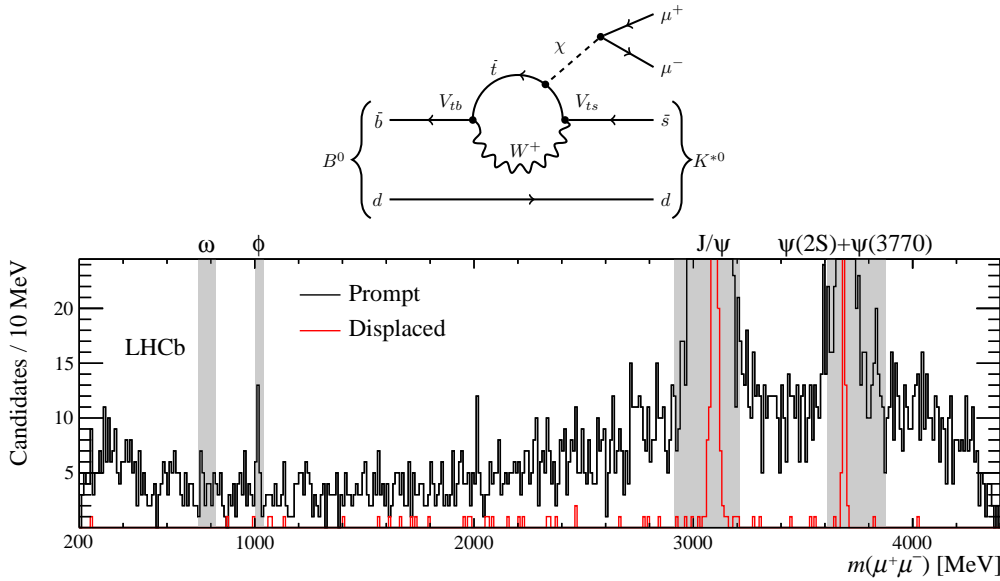


Figure 13: (top) Feynman diagram for the low mass boson production searched for by LHCb with the 8 TeV data [23]. (bottom) Invariant mass spectrum of $\chi \rightarrow \mu\mu$ candidates [23].

10. Conclusions

Combining the searches in 8 and 13 TeV data, one can conclude a solid "maybe" on the hint of a resonance at 750 GeV in the 2015 dataset. Shortly after the LHCP conference, the 2016 dataset

of the LHC gives the final answer to this question. CMS and ATLAS explore di-boson resonance with >7 TeV masses in all important final states. Interpretations cover spin-0, spin-1 (HVT), spin-2 (RSG) scenarios. The analyses with 13 TeV data already supersede the 8 TeV searches at >7 TeV masses and set the most stringent mass limits on $W'/Z'/G^*$ resonances. The combination of 8+13 TeV $VV+VH$ searches disfavors the hint of a bump at 2 TeV seen in the 2012 dataset.

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