High-lights of the ATLAS and ALICE experiments

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On behalf of the ATLAS and ALICE collaborations

The ATLAS experiment has achieved important new physics results in particular in the Higgs area using the large proton-proton collision data-sets at a centre-of-mass energy of 13 TeV. The Yukawa coupling of the Higgs boson to fermions was established with the direct observation of the production of the Higgs boson with a top quark pair and the observation of the Higgs boson decay to beauty quarks. The four main production modes of the Higgs boson have now been observed. The couplings to all heavy particles (Z/W-boson, top and bottom quark and tau-lepton) are observed and already measured with good precision. It is experimentally confirmed that the Higgs boson couplings strongly depend on the particle mass.

ATLAS also observed a few important electroweak diboson processes and measured their cross-section and some properties. For some of these processes it is the first observation by the ATLAS experiment. A preliminary measurement of the electroweak mixing angle accomplished a 15% precision using Drell-Yan cross-section measurements at a centre-of-mass energy of 8 TeV. Measurements of spin correlations between top quark pairs show that a discrepancy with NLO QCD. New measurements of top quark pair production in association with beauty quark pairs show a 50% normalisation difference with respect to most recent QCD calculations.

The ALICE experiments studies particle production in proton-proton and heavy-ion collisions in great detail. New results on strange particle production and baryon-to-meson ratio lead to a consistent picture in proton-proton, xenon-xenon and lead-lead collisions. Models of collective flow measurements tuned in lead-lead collisions can also describe the xenon-xenon data showing that the initial matter distributions in the collisions and the expansion dynamics of the hot and dense nuclear medium are well understood. Moreover, detailed measurements of D-meson demonstrate a quantitative understanding of charm transport.

The 39th International Conference on High Energy Physics (ICHEP2018)
4-11 July, 2018
Seoul, Korea

*Speaker.
†Many thanks to the ATLAS and ALICE collaborations for preparing excellent results on the latest data-sets for this conference and for the help to prepare this invited plenary talk.

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ATLAS and ALICE Highlights

Tancredi Carli

1. Progress in Higgs physics

A new particle with a mass of 125 GeV was discovered in July 2012 by the ATLAS and the CMS experiments at LHC using proton-proton collisions at a centre-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 8 TeV (Run-1) [1]. The large data-sets collected at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV (Run-2) enable detailed measurements of the newly discovered particles that can answer the question: Is this particle the Higgs boson as assumed in the Standard Model (SM)?

To describe the Higgs interactions for the electro-weak breaking mechanism the SM extends the Lagrangian describing the strong and electro-weak interactions. One new term describes the interaction of a scalar ($\Phi$) with gauge bosons ($|D_\mu \Phi|^2$). Such an interaction is new for a scalar, but was already known for fermions ($\Psi_i, \bar{\Psi}_j \Psi_j \Phi$). These two new terms are experimentally tested with the ATLAS data. The Higgs potential $V(\Phi) = \mu^2 \Phi^2 + \lambda \Phi^4$ can only be explored at the high luminosity LHC.

With the data-set collected in the years 2015 and 2016 corresponding to an integrated luminosity of $L = 36$ fb$^{-1}$ and in addition with the one including also the 2017 data ($L = 80$ fb$^{-1}$) many new detailed measurements by the ATLAS experiment confirm that the new scalar behaves like the SM Higgs boson.

**Higgs interactions with gauge bosons** These interactions have a high cross-section or clean experimental signatures. The main channels ($H \to \gamma\gamma, H \to ZZ^*$ and $H \to WW^*$) lead to the Higgs discovery in Run-1. A first cross-section measurement was recently made for $H \to WW^*$ [4, 5] at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV. The gluon-gluon fusion (ggF) production cross-section $\sigma_{ggF}^{H \to WW^*}$ is measured with a precision of 17%. Gauge interactions are also used to measure precise fiducial differential cross-sections shown for the four lepton channel ($pp \to H \to ZZ \to llll$ [2] and the two photon channel [3] ($pp \to H \to \gamma\gamma$) in Fig. 1. The data are well described by recent SM predictions based on state-of-the-art QCD calculations.
Yukawa coupling to fermions The analyses of the Run-1 data-set only got a glimpse on the Yukawa couplings to fermions. The combined result of the ATLAS and the CMS experiments gave an observation of the $H \to \tau \tau$ decay with a significance of 5.5 (5.0) $\sigma$ obs (exp) [6]. With the 36 fb$^{-1}$ data-set the ATLAS experiment alone has reached 6.4 (5.4) $\sigma$ obs (exp) by combining the 7.8 and 13 TeV data-sets. The precision of the fiducial cross-section is 50% for the ggF process and 60% for the Vector-boson fusion process (VBF). The measurements of $H \to \tau \tau$ and $H \to WW$ require a detailed understanding of all backgrounds and are experimentally challenging.

A very important milestone in Higgs physics was achieved this year with the direct observation of the associated production of the Higgs boson with a top quark pair ($t\bar{t}H$). This directly confirms the large Yukawa coupling ($\gamma_t$) is proportional to $m_t\sqrt{2}/v \approx 1$, with the top mass $m_t$ and the vacuum expectation value of the Higgs field $v = 246$ GeV.

In December 2017 the ATLAS experiment reported evidence for $t\bar{t}H$ production with a combined significance of 4.2 (3.8) $\sigma$ observed (expected) [7, 8, 9]. Including the 2017 data for the channels $t\bar{t}H(\to \gamma\gamma)$ and $t\bar{t}H(ZZ^* \to 4l)$ $t\bar{t}H$ production was observed with a significance of 5.1 (6.3) $\sigma$ observed (expected) [10]. The signal to background yields (log $(S/B)$) are displayed in Fig. 2 (left). At high log $(S/B)$ values a clear increase over the background is observed.

![Graph](image)

Figure 2: Observed event yields in up to 80 fb$^{-1}$ of 13 TeV data for $t\bar{t}H$ production [10] (left) and $H \to b\bar{b}$ [11] (right) as a function of the signal to background ratio.

Assuming the SM branching fractions the total $t\bar{t}H$ production cross section at 13 TeV is measured to be $670 \pm 90$ (stat.)$^{+110}_{-100}$ (syst.) fb in agreement with the SM prediction. A 20% precision is achieved. The observation of the $t\bar{t}H$ process gives direct evidence that the Higgs boson couples directly to the top quark in contrast to the gluon-gluon fusion production mode where the top quarks are in a virtual loop (and therefore might contain new physics contributions). It is therefore interesting to compare the effective coupling of the Higgs boson to gluons via the virtual top loop ($k_{\text{gluon}}$) and the direct coupling to top quarks ($k_{\text{top}}$). The ratio of the effective couplings gives $k_{\text{gluon}}/k_{\text{top}} = 1.09 \pm 0.14$ consistent with the SM expectation [12]. Already a remarkable precision of 13% is achieved. This result limits new physics contributions in the top quark loop.
The second high-light prepared for this conference is the observation of the associated WH and ZH production (VH) mode and the Higgs decay in beauty quarks $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$. This is a key measurement for the Higgs sector since the SM predicts a large branching fraction of 58%, and also tests the Yukawa coupling to fermions. It also constitutes the first observation of the Higgs boson decaying to quarks. Despite the dominant branching ratio, the observation is very challenging because of the very large backgrounds coming from W and Z production in association with bottom and charm quarks. Sophisticated analysis techniques and excellent modelling of the backgrounds are therefore required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Production mode</th>
<th>Significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gluon-gluon fusion (ggF)</td>
<td>observed in Run-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ass. WH or ZH production (VH)</td>
<td>5.3 (4.8) obs (exp) [11]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vector-boson fusion (VBF)</td>
<td>6.5 (5.3) obs (exp) [12]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated $t\bar{t}H$ production ($t\bar{t}H$)</td>
<td>6.3 (5.1) obs (exp) [10]</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Table 1: Significance of the main Higgs production modes.

Fig. 2 (right) shows the event yields as a function of the signal $S$ to background $B$ ratio $\log(S/B)$ for data, background and a Higgs boson signal with $m_H=125$ GeV. Final-discriminant bins in all regions are combined into bins of $\log(S/B)$, with $S$ being the fitted signal and $B$ the fitted background yields. In the lower panel, the pull of the data relative to the background (the statistical significance of the difference between data and fitted background) is shown with statistical uncertainties only. A clear signal is seen at high signal to background ratio.

Using the VH production mode alone a significance of 4.9 (4.3) $\sigma$ obs (exp) is obtained at $\sqrt{s}=13$ TeV. Combined with all production modes (VBF, $t\bar{t}H$, VH) and with earlier data at $\sqrt{s}=7$ and 8 TeV a significance of 5.4 (5.5) $\sigma$ obs (exp) is obtained [11, 13]. This constitutes the observation of Higgs decays to beauty quarks! The significance of the production modes are summarised in Tab. 1. All major Higgs production modes are observed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Higgs coupling</th>
<th>Significance/Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$H \rightarrow ZZ^*$</td>
<td>Run-1 established, Run-2 $d\sigma$ [2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H \rightarrow WW^*$</td>
<td>6.3 (5.2) obs (exp) (Run-2 only) [4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top Quark: $t\bar{t}H$</td>
<td>6.3 (5.1) obs (exp) [10]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauty-quark: $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$</td>
<td>5.4 (5.5) obs (exp) [11]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tau-lepton: $H \rightarrow \tau\bar{\tau}$</td>
<td>6.4 (5.4) obs (exp) [14]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muon: $H \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu}$</td>
<td>$\sigma_{\text{limit}}/\sigma_{\text{SM}} &lt; 2.1$ obs [15]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charm-quark: $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$</td>
<td>$\sigma_{\text{limit}}/\sigma_{\text{SM}} &lt; 104$ obs [16]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Summary of the Higgs coupling measurements.

With the new results presented at this conference, the couplings to all high mass particles are measured. The next challenge will be to establish the couplings to the lighter particles like muons and charm-quarks. For those so far only limits on the production cross-section are available. Increased precision and detailed measurements will be obtained with the large Run-2 data-sets.

One of the next major goals in the LHC physics program is the observation of Di-Higgs production and the extraction of the Higgs self-coupling. Di-Higgs production directly probes the SM trilinear coupling. Unfortunately in the SM there is a strong destructive interference between the process where each of the two Higgs boson couples to a top quark and the one which involves the Higgs self-coupling (via $H^* \rightarrow HH$).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>$\sigma_{\text{limit}}/\sigma_{\text{SM}}^{pp\rightarrow HH}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$bb\tau^+\tau^-$</td>
<td>12.5 (14.8) obs (exp) [17]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$</td>
<td>13.0 (20.7) obs (exp) [18]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$bb\gamma\gamma$</td>
<td>22.0 (28) obs (exp) [19]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$W^+W^-\gamma\gamma$</td>
<td>230 (160) obs (exp) [20]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Di-Higgs cross-sections limits.
The cross-section is therefore only about $\sigma_{pp\to HH}^{\text{SM}} = 34$ fb. The present analyses could already be sensitive to new physics contributions and therefore ATLAS carries an active program with many decay modes analysed. Recently a lot of progress was made. In particular, the $HH \to b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-$ result has been considerably improved [17] with the upper limit on the cross-section approaching $\sigma_{\text{limit}}/\sigma_{pp\to HH}^{\text{SM}} \approx 10$. All results are summarised in Tab. 3.

### 2. Observation of rare electro-weak Diboson processes

The electro-weak production of two bosons tests the electro-weak symmetry breaking, since the Higgs boson leads to a strong cross-section suppression via the cancellation of individual electro-weak diagrams. The 2015+2016 data-set opened up the possibility to measure several previously unobserved rare electro-weak processes.

The electro-weak production mode is enhanced over the strong production mode in vector-boson scattering topologies (VBS) where a W-boson is radiated from an incoming quark in each colliding proton. This topology has two jets with large invariant mass in the forward detector region. The production of $W^\pm W^\pm$ jet jet is particularly sensitive, since the requirement of a same-sign W-boson pair gives an additional background suppression. ATLAS observed this process with a significance of 6.9 $\sigma$ [21].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>Significance</th>
<th>$\Delta\sigma/\sigma_{\text{fid}}$</th>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long. W polarisation</td>
<td>4.2 (3.8)</td>
<td>5% [21]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WZ jet jet</td>
<td>5.6 (3.3)</td>
<td>26% [22]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$W^\pm W^\pm$ jet jet</td>
<td>6.9 (4.6)</td>
<td>20% [23]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: Rare electro-weak SM processes measurements.

WZ jet jet production was observed with a significance of 5.6 $\sigma$ and a fiducial cross-section was measured [21] with a precision $\Delta\sigma/\sigma_{\text{fid}} = 26\%$. This process is sensitive to triple and quartic electro-weak gauge couplings. The Z boson polarisation was measured and evidence for the longitudinal W boson polarisation was obtained (4.2 $\sigma$).

Inclusive electro-weak WZ production measurements are an important tool to study QCD and electro-weak effects. The fiducial WZ production cross-sections measured differentially as function of several kinematic variables are in good agreement with NNLO QCD [21]. The longitudinal and transverse W- and Z-boson polarisation in WZ production is measured. Evidence for longitudinal polarisation of the W-boson is found. The results are summarised in Tab. 4.

### 3. Precision measurement of electro-weak parameters

In NNLO QCD the triple differential Drell-Yan cross-section $d\sigma_{pp\to Z}/dy^ll dm^ll d\cos \theta$ (dilepton mass and rapidity and polar angle in the lepton rest frame) can be expanded as a sum of nine harmonic polynomials. The angular coefficient $A_4$ is parity violating and is particularly sensitive to the electro-weak mixing angle. Experimentally it is closely related to the forward-backward asymmetry. The measurement of the angular coefficients using electrons and muons in the central rapidity $|\eta| < 2.4$ (CC) and using electrons in the forward rapidity $2.5 < |\eta| < 4.6$ (CF) detector regions can be used to determine the effective electro-weak mixing angle. The lepton invariant mass is required to be close to the Z mass pole to enhance electro-weak effects.
4. Top physics

Since several years ATLAS has measured fiducial top quark production cross-sections defined using the particles entering the detector. Together with the recent improvements of the Monte Carlo event generators giving NLO precision for $2 \rightarrow 2$ with $2 \rightarrow 3$ partons scatterings these measurements have significantly improved the modelling of the final state with top quarks [29]. A fiducial cross-section measurement of $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$ production shows that the shapes of the differential cross-sections (e.g. as a function of the number of b-jets) are well described, but the absolute cross-section are 50% higher in the data than in the theory predictions [30].

A measurement of the azimuthal angle between the two leptons in the process $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t} \rightarrow e\mu b\bar{b}$ ($\Delta\Phi(e\mu)$) shows a steeper dependence in data compared to recent Monte Carlo generators [31]. This variable is particularly sensitive to spin correlations between the top decay products. If the discrepancy is interpreted as due to spin correlations, stronger spin correlations than expected by NLO QCD and Monte Carlo generators are observed in data. The observed discrepancy is on the level of 3.2 $\sigma$.

5. Searches for Physics Beyond the Standard Model

ATLAS has a very active physics program on searches for new particles and interactions beyond the SM. Examples are searches for super-symmetric particles, new additional Higgs bosons, Dark Matter candidates or new weak interactions. ATLAS published 62 articles on searches in the 13 TeV data-set with $L = 36$ fb$^{-1}$ and there are already 13 preliminary results based on the 2017 with $L = 80$ fb$^{-1}$.

An example is a search for a new electro-weak gauge boson ($W'$) in context of sequential SM benchmark model [32]. The $W'$ mass is reconstructed from a lepton at high transverse momentum.
and the missing transverse momentum (see Fig. 4a). Masses up to about 3 TeV are observed, but no deviation from the background is found. Assuming SM couplings $W'$ masses below 5.6 TeV can be excluded at 95%CL with $L = 80$ fb$^{-1}$ [32], while masses below 5.2 TeV where already excluded with the 36 fb$^{-1}$ data-set [34]. This demonstrates that the pure gain due to a luminosity increase is becoming less important in the future. However, new signatures and new experimental techniques can further increase the sensitivity to find new physics.

A nice example is the search for resonances decaying in two W bosons at high transverse momentum. The invariant mass of two boosted W bosons reconstructed by two large radius jets is shown in Fig. 4. No new resonance is observed. A new experimental technique considerably improved the W-boson tagging performance by using tracks to define the direction of the jet constituents instead of calorimeter clusters. Together with a working point optimisation an improvement by a factor of 2 beyond the gain by the increased luminosity has been achieved with respect to earlier results based on the 36 fb$^{-1}$ data-set [33].

6. Heavy Ion physics with the ALICE experiment

The main ALICE results are based on lead-lead (Pb-Pb) and p-Pb collisions. In 2017 six LHC hours were used for xenon-ion (Xe) collisions. This year a significant increase in Pb-Pb luminosity is expected to study rare processes.

The ALICE detector with its impressive particle-identification capabilities can measure the production yields of $K_S$, $\Lambda$, $\Phi$, $\Theta$ and $\Omega$ particles with respect to pion yields as a function of the mean charged particle multiplicity in various collision set-ups (see Fig. 5). A smooth evolution of the strange baryon-to-pion ratios as a function of charged particle multiplicity is observed. They increase smoothly until a plateau is reached. This trend is confirmed by the recent Xe-Xe data.

The right panel of Fig. 5 shows the baryon-to-meson ratios for non-strange, strange and charmed baryons and mesons as a function of transverse momentum. A well pronounced bump is observed around $p_t \approx 3$ GeV which is difficult to explain with QCD models. The bump was recently confirmed for the $\Lambda_c$ to $D^0$-meson ratio and the same effect is seen in p-p and p-Pb collisions.
Figure 5: Particle yields for protons, $K_0^0$, $\Lambda$, $\Xi$, $\Omega$ and $\Phi$ normalised to pion yields versus the average multiplicity in $p$-$p$ 7 TeV, $p$-$p$ 13 TeV, $p$-$Pb$ 5 TeV, $Pb$-$Pb$ 5 TeV and Xe-$Xe$ 5.44 TeV collisions [35] (left). Baryon-to-meson ratio ($\Lambda^+/D^0$, $\Lambda^0/K_0$, $p/\pi$) vs $p_t$ in $p$-$p$ and $p$-$Pb$ collisions.

The collective movement of particles produced in heavy ions collisions gives important insights into the particle formation mechanism in early stages of the nucleon interactions. The production of particles shows an azimuthal anisotropy originating from the non-isotropic density distribution in the initial state which leads to anisotropic expansion of the hot and dense matter. The final state azimuthal anisotropy is characterised by the harmonic coefficients $v_n$ of a Fourier expansion of the azimuthal distributions. The $v_2$ coefficient is called elliptic flow. It is dominant for non-central collisions where the initial collision area has an elliptic shape; $v_3$, or triangular flow is the result of fluctuations in the initial state causing triangular components.

Fig. 6 shows $v_2$ and $v_3$ as function of the centrality in Xe-$Xe$ collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.44$ TeV [37]. The elliptic flow increases from low centrality where the collisions are head-on to large values where the nuclei only collide at the periphery. The model calculations tuned on $Pb$-$Pb$ results are in good agreement with the Xe-$Xe$ measurements. This demonstrates that the effect of the initial density distributions and the viscosity on elliptic and triangular flow are well understood. The elliptic flow is studied in more detail in $Pb$-$Pb$ collisions using $D$-mesons as function of the $p_t$ in Fig. 7 [38]. The elliptic flow is maximal at $p_t \approx 3$ GeV and then decreases indicating a strong particle suppression at high $p_t$. The azimuthal distribution of initial charm quark production is uniform and the observed anisotropy is due to scattering in the medium. This process can be characterised by the charm quark diffusion coefficient, which these measurements will help to determine.
7. Conclusions

The ATLAS analysis of the Run-2 data is in full swing. Important key Higgs physics results have been obtained this year. The Higgs decay to beauty quarks and the main Higgs production modes are observed. The Higgs coupling to the top quark was directly observed. As a result the Yukawa coupling of the Higgs boson to fermions is experimentally confirmed.

Rare electro-weak process like the same-sign $W^\pm W^\pm$ jet jet and and the $WZ$ jet jet processes were observed. They constitute an important test of the SM electro-weak sector. A new measurement of the electro-weak mixing angle with a precision of 0.15% completes the recent precise electro-weak parameter measurement of the Higgs, the $W$ and the top mass.

The large data-set also allows for precise measurements of top quark pair final states. Examples are a measurement of associated production with beauty quark pairs and an indication for stronger top spin correlations than expected by NLO QCD.

The extensive and active program for new physics with the Run-2 data-set is under way. The searches on the intermediate data-set do not show any sign for new physics. However, many new directions are being worked out and the detectors are pushed at the limit of their performance to cover all new physics possibilities.

In heavy ion collisions good progress has been made to understand the properties of strongly interacting nuclear matter. Azimuthal anisotropies in Xe-Xe data confirm the understanding of the expanding of the dense and hot nuclear medium. The production of charm-mesons probes partonic interactions and the quantitative understanding of charm transport is progressing.

References

[18] ATLAS collaboration, [1804.06174].
[28] ATLAS collaboration, [1810.01772].