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# Measurement of the associated production of a Higgs boson decaying into $b$ -quarks with a vector boson at high transverse momentum in $pp$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV with the ATLAS detector



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## ABSTRACT

The associated production of a Higgs boson with a  $W$  or  $Z$  boson decaying into leptons and where the Higgs boson decays to a  $b\bar{b}$  pair is measured in the high vector-boson transverse momentum regime, above 250 GeV, with the ATLAS detector. The analysed data, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $139 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ , were collected in proton–proton collisions at the Large Hadron Collider between 2015 and 2018 at a centre-of-mass energy of  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV. The measured signal strength, defined as the ratio of the measured signal yield to that predicted by the Standard Model, is  $0.72^{+0.39}_{-0.36}$  corresponding to an observed (expected) significance of 2.1 (2.7) standard deviations. Cross-sections of associated production of a Higgs boson decaying into  $b$  quark pairs with a  $W$  or  $Z$  gauge boson, decaying into leptons, are measured in two exclusive vector boson transverse momentum regions, 250–400 GeV and above 400 GeV, and interpreted as constraints on anomalous couplings in the framework of a Standard Model effective field theory.

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## 1. Introduction

Since the discovery of the Higgs boson ( $H$ ) [1–4] with a mass of around 125 GeV [5] by the ATLAS and CMS Collaborations [6,7] in 2012, the analysis of proton–proton ( $pp$ ) collision data at centre-of-mass energies of 7 TeV, 8 TeV and 13 TeV delivered by the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) [8] has led to precise measurements of the main production cross-sections and decay rates of the Higgs boson, as well as measurements of its mass and its spin and parity properties. In particular, the observation of the decay of the Higgs boson into  $b$ -quark pairs provided direct evidence for the Yukawa coupling of the Higgs boson to down-type quarks [9,10]. Finally, a combination of 13 TeV results searching for the Higgs boson produced in association with a leptonically decaying  $W$  or  $Z$  boson established the observation of this production process [9]. A first cross-section measurement as a function of the vector-boson transverse momentum was also carried out by the ATLAS Collaboration [11].

The previous ATLAS analyses [9,11] in this channel were mainly sensitive to vector bosons with transverse momentum ( $p_T$ ) in the range of approximately 100–300 GeV. These analyses considered a pair of jets with radius parameter of  $R = 0.4$ , referred to as small-radius (small- $R$ ) jets, to reconstruct the Higgs boson. For higher Higgs boson transverse momenta, the decay products can become

close enough that they cannot be reconstructed with two small- $R$  jets. To explore this 'boosted' regime, the Higgs boson is reconstructed as a single large- $R$  jet with  $R = 1.0$  [12]. This high- $p_T$  regime is particularly interesting due to its sensitivity to physics beyond the Standard Model [13].

This Letter presents a measurement of cross-sections for the associated production of a high transverse momentum Higgs boson that decays into a  $b\bar{b}$  pair with a leptonically decaying  $W$  or  $Z$  boson. The analysis uses  $pp$  collision data recorded between 2015 and 2018 by the ATLAS detector [14] during Run 2 at the LHC. This dataset corresponds to an integrated luminosity of  $139 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ . Events are selected in 0-, 1- and 2-lepton channels, based on the number of reconstructed charged leptons,  $\ell$  (electrons or muons), in the final state to explore the  $ZH \rightarrow \nu\nu b\bar{b}$ ,  $WH \rightarrow \ell\nu b\bar{b}$  and  $ZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  signatures, respectively. The Higgs boson is reconstructed as a single large- $R$  jet and the  $b$ -quarks from its decay as a pair of jets, reconstructed with a  $p_T$ -dependent radius parameter, associated with the large- $R$  jet and identified as containing a  $b$ -hadron.

The analysis using small- $R$  jets and focusing on slightly lower Higgs boson transverse momentum regions was recently updated with the complete Run 2 dataset [15]. The large- $R$  jet analysis significantly overlaps with the small- $R$  jets analysis. The two results can therefore not be straightforwardly combined.

The dominant background processes after the event selection correspond to the production of  $V + \text{jets}$ , where  $V$  refers to either a  $W$  or  $Z$  boson,  $t\bar{t}$ , single-top and dibosons. The signal is extracted

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from a combined profile likelihood fit to the large- $R$  jet mass, using several signal and control regions. The yield of diboson production  $VZ$  with  $Z \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  is also measured using the same fit and provides a validation of the analysis. The cross-section measurements are performed within the simplified template cross-section (STXS) framework [16,17]. These measurements are then used to constrain anomalous couplings in a Standard Model effective field theory (SMEFT) [18].

## 2. ATLAS detector

The ATLAS detector [14] at the LHC is a multipurpose particle detector with a forward-backward symmetric cylindrical geometry and a near  $4\pi$  coverage in solid angle.<sup>1</sup> It consists of an inner detector (ID) for tracking surrounded by a thin superconducting solenoid providing a 2 T axial magnetic field, electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters, and a muon spectrometer. The ID covers the pseudorapidity range  $|\eta| < 2.5$ . It consists of silicon pixel, silicon microstrip, and transition radiation tracking detectors. An inner pixel layer, the insertable B-layer [19,20], was added at a mean radius of 3.3 cm during the long shutdown period between Run 1 and Run 2 of the LHC. Lead/liquid-argon (LAr) sampling calorimeters provide electromagnetic (EM) energy measurements with high granularity ( $|\eta| < 3.2$ ). The hadronic calorimeter uses a steel/scintillator-tile sampling detector in the central pseudorapidity range ( $|\eta| < 1.7$ ) and a copper/LAr detector in the region  $1.5 < |\eta| < 3.2$ . The forward regions ( $3.2 < |\eta| < 4.9$ ) are instrumented with copper/LAr and tungsten/LAr calorimeter modules optimised for electromagnetic and hadronic measurements, respectively. A muon spectrometer with an air-core toroid magnet system surrounds the calorimeters. Three layers of high-precision tracking chambers provide coverage in the range  $|\eta| < 2.7$ , while dedicated fast chambers allow muon triggering in the region  $|\eta| < 2.4$ . The ATLAS trigger system consists of a hardware-based first-level trigger followed by a software-based high-level trigger [21].

## 3. Data and Monte Carlo simulation

The data were collected in  $pp$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV during Run 2 of the LHC. The data sample corresponds to an integrated luminosity of  $139 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  after requiring that all detector subsystems were operating normally and recording high-quality data [22]. The uncertainty in the combined 2015–2018 integrated luminosity is 1.7% [23], obtained using the LUCID-2 detector [24] for the primary luminosity measurements. Collision events considered for this analysis were recorded with a combination of triggers selecting events with high missing transverse momentum or with a high- $p_T$  lepton, depending on the analysis channel. More details of the trigger selection are given in Section 5.

Monte Carlo (MC) simulated event samples processed with the ATLAS detector simulation [25] based on GEANT 4 [26] are used to model the signal and background contributions, except for the multijet production, whose contribution is estimated with data-driven techniques as detailed in Section 6. A summary of all the signal and background processes with the corresponding generators used for the nominal samples is shown in Table 1. All simulated processes are normalised using the most precise theoretical

predictions currently available of their cross-sections. In addition to the hard scatter, each event was overlaid with additional  $pp$  collisions (pile-up) generated with PYTHIA 8.1 [27] using the ATLAS A3 set of tuned parameters [28] and the NNPDF23LO [29] parton distribution function (PDF) set. Simulated events were then reconstructed with the same algorithms as those applied to data and are weighted to match the pile-up distribution observed in the data.

For the signal events, the AZNLO [30] model of parton showers and the underlying event (UE) was used. For the top-quark pair and single-top-quark production processes, the UE model was taken from the ATLAS A14 [31] set of tuned PYTHIA 8.1 [27] parameters and for the other backgrounds the default SHERPA [32–35] tune set was used. For all samples of simulated events, except for those generated using SHERPA, the EVTGEN v1.2.0 program [36] was used to describe the decays of bottom and charm hadrons. The nominal PDF set used for  $W/Z$ +jets and diboson processes was NNPDF3.0NNLO [37] while for the top-quark pair and single-top production the NNPDF3.0NLO [37] set was used. Samples produced with alternative generators which are used to estimate modelling systematic uncertainties are described in Section 7.

All  $qq$ -initiated signal processes were simulated with up to one additional parton at next-to-leading-order (NLO) accuracy in QCD using the POWHEG-Box v2 [41] and the GoSAM [43] generator with the MiNLO (Multiscale Improved NLO) [44,45] procedure applied, interfaced to PYTHIA 8.212 for the simulation of the parton shower (PS), UE and multiple parton interactions. The  $gg \rightarrow ZH$  contribution was simulated at leading order (LO) in QCD with Powheg-Box v2. The  $gg \rightarrow ZH$  cross-section process was calculated at NLO in QCD including soft gluon resummation up to next-to-leading logarithms (NLL) [53–57]. Signal MC events were generated using the NNPDF3.0NLO PDF set and subsequently reweighted to the PDF4LHC15NLO PDF set [38]. The total inclusive cross-sections for all signal processes ( $WH$  and  $ZH$ ) were calculated at next-to-next-to-leading-order (NNLO) QCD and NLO electroweak (EW) [46–52] accuracy, including photon-induced contributions calculated with HAWK [39,40].

The nominal top-quark pair production generator was Powheg-Box v2 with real and virtual corrections at NLO accuracy in QCD and interfaced to PYTHIA 8.230 for the parton showering. The nominal top-quark pair production cross-section is from a resummed NNLO and next-to-next-to-leading logarithm (NNLL) prediction [59].

Single top-quark production was also generated with Powheg-Box v2 interfaced to PYTHIA 8.230. The nominal cross-section normalisations for the single top-quark production  $s$ - and  $t$ -processes were estimated from resummed calculations at NLO, while for the  $Wt$  process approximate NNLO was used [61,62,64]. At higher orders in QCD, the definition of the  $Wt$  process can correspond to leading-order top-quark pair production processes. To account for these ambiguities and related interference effects when generating the processes separately, the diagram removal (DR) subtraction scheme was used [68].

The nominal  $W/Z$ +jets background samples used SHERPA 2.2.1 [33–35] for the matrix element (ME) and parton shower with virtual corrections at NLO accuracy for up to two additional jets and at LO for up to four additional jets using OPENLOOPS [32,34,35]. In these samples, the simulation of the emission of hard partons matched with a parton shower was based on the Catani–Seymour subtraction term [32,34,35] and the multi-parton ME was merged with the parton shower using an improved cKw matching procedure extended to NLO accuracy using the MEPS@NLO prescription [66]. The nominal normalisation of this background was obtained from an NNLO fixed-order estimate [67].

The diboson nominal samples were generated using SHERPA 2.2.1 for the dominant  $qq$ -initiated processes for which zero or one additional parton was calculated at NLO in the ME, while two or

<sup>1</sup> ATLAS uses a right-handed coordinate system with its origin at the nominal interaction point in the centre of the detector. The positive  $x$ -axis is defined by the direction from the interaction point to the centre of the LHC ring, with the positive  $y$ -axis pointing upwards, while the beam direction defines the  $z$ -axis. Cylindrical coordinates  $(r, \phi)$  are used in the transverse plane,  $\phi$  being the azimuthal angle around the  $z$ -axis. The pseudorapidity  $\eta$  is defined in terms of the polar angle  $\theta$  by  $\eta = -\ln \tan(\theta/2)$ . The angular distance is defined as  $\Delta R \equiv \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2}$ . Rapidity is defined as  $y = 0.5 \ln[(E + p_z)/(E - p_z)]$  where  $E$  denotes the energy and  $p_z$  is the component of the momentum along the beam direction.

**Table 1**

Signal and background processes with the corresponding generators used for the nominal samples. If not specified, the order of the cross-section calculation refers to the expansion in the strong coupling constant ( $\alpha_s$ ). (★) The events were generated using the first PDF in the NNPDF3.0NLO set and subsequently reweighted to the PDF4LHC15NLO set [38] using the internal algorithm in PowHEG-Box v2. (†) The NNLO(QCD)+NLO(EW) cross-section calculation for the  $pp \rightarrow ZH$  process already includes the  $gg \rightarrow ZH$  contribution. The  $qq \rightarrow ZH$  process is normalised using the cross-section for the  $pp \rightarrow ZH$  process, after subtracting the  $gg \rightarrow ZH$  contribution. An additional scale factor is applied to the  $qq \rightarrow VH$  processes as a function of the transverse momentum of the vector boson, to account for electroweak (EW) corrections at NLO. This makes use of the  $VH$  differential cross-section computed with HAWK [39,40].

Process	ME generator	ME PDF	PS and hadronisation	UE model tune	Cross-section order
Signal ( $m_H = 125$ GeV and $b\bar{b}$ branching fraction set to 58%)					
$qq \rightarrow WH \rightarrow \ell\nu b\bar{b}$	PowHEG-Box v2 [41] + GoSAM [43] + MiNLO [44,45]	NNPDF3.0NLO(★) [37]	PYTHIA 8.212 [42]	AZNLO [30]	NNLO(QCD)+NLO(EW) [46–52]
$qq \rightarrow ZH \rightarrow \nu\nu b\bar{b}/\ell\ell b\bar{b}$	PowHEG-Box v2 + GoSAM + MiNLO	NNPDF3.0NLO(★)	PYTHIA 8.212	AZNLO	NNLO(QCD) <sup>(†)</sup> +NLO(EW)
$gg \rightarrow ZH \rightarrow \nu\nu b\bar{b}/\ell\ell b\bar{b}$	PowHEG-Box v2	NNPDF3.0NLO(★)	PYTHIA 8.212	AZNLO	NLO+NLL [53–57]
Top quark ( $m_t = 172.5$ GeV)					
$t\bar{t}$	PowHEG-Box v2 [41,58]	NNPDF3.0NLO	PYTHIA 8.230	A14 [31]	NNLO+NNLL [59]
s-channel	PowHEG-Box v2 [41,60]	NNPDF3.0NLO	PYTHIA 8.230	A14	NLO [61]
t-channel	PowHEG-Box v2 [41,60]	NNPDF3.0NLO	PYTHIA 8.230	A14	NLO [62]
$Wt$	PowHEG-Box v2 [41,63]	NNPDF3.0NLO	PYTHIA 8.230	A14	Approximate NNLO [64]
Vector boson + jets					
$W \rightarrow \ell\nu$	SHERPA 2.2.1 [32–35]	NNPDF3.0NNLO	SHERPA 2.2.1 [65,66]	Default	NNLO [67]
$Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \ell\ell$	SHERPA 2.2.1	NNPDF3.0NNLO	SHERPA 2.2.1	Default	NNLO
$Z \rightarrow \nu\nu$	SHERPA 2.2.1	NNPDF3.0NNLO	SHERPA 2.2.1	Default	NNLO
Diboson					
$qq \rightarrow WW$	SHERPA 2.2.1	NNPDF3.0NNLO	SHERPA 2.2.1	Default	NLO
$qq \rightarrow WZ$	SHERPA 2.2.1	NNPDF3.0NNLO	SHERPA 2.2.1	Default	NLO
$qq \rightarrow ZZ$	SHERPA 2.2.1	NNPDF3.0NNLO	SHERPA 2.2.1	Default	NLO
$gg \rightarrow VV$	SHERPA 2.2.2	NNPDF3.0NNLO	SHERPA 2.2.2	Default	NLO

three additional partons were included at LO in QCD. The subdominant  $gg$ -initiated processes were generated with SHERPA 2.2.2. For these samples, zero or one additional parton was calculated at LO in the ME. These generators also provided the nominal normalisation for this process.

#### 4. Object reconstruction

Of all the reconstructed  $pp$  collision vertices with at least two reconstructed trajectories of charged particles in the ID (tracks) with  $p_T > 0.5$  GeV, the hard-scattering primary vertex is selected as the one with the highest sum of squared transverse momenta of associated tracks [69].

Leptons are used for event categorisation as described in Section 5. Electrons are reconstructed from tracks in the ID associated with topological clusters of energy depositions in the calorimeter [70,71]. The identification criteria closely follow those described in Ref. [9]. *Baseline* electrons are required to have  $p_T > 7$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.47$ , to be isolated from other tracks and energy deposit clusters, to meet loose likelihood selection criteria based on shower shapes and to satisfy  $|d_0/\sigma(d_0)| < 5$  and  $|z_0 \sin\theta| < 0.5$  mm, where  $d_0$  and  $z_0$  are the transverse and longitudinal impact parameters defined relative to the primary vertex position<sup>2</sup> and  $\sigma(d_0)$  is the  $d_0$  uncertainty. *Signal* electrons are a subset of the *baseline* electron set and are selected using a tighter likelihood requirement, which also includes tracking and track-cluster matching variables, and using a tighter calorimeter-based isolation criterion.

Muon candidates are identified by matching ID tracks to full tracks or track segments reconstructed in the muon spectrometer within the inner detector coverage and using only information from the muon spectrometer outside of that coverage. Muons are required to have  $p_T > 7$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.7$  and to have  $|d_0/\sigma(d_0)| < 3$  and  $|z_0 \sin\theta| < 0.5$  mm. Two muon categories are

used in the analysis: *baseline* muons are selected using the ‘loose’ identification criterion of Ref. [72] and a loose track isolation; *signal* muons are required to have  $|\eta| < 2.5$ , to satisfy the ‘medium’ identification criterion [72] and a tighter track-based isolation criterion.

The low-threshold (7 GeV) *baseline* leptons are used to define the three main channels requiring exactly zero, one and two leptons. The latter 1- and 2-lepton channels further require at least one *signal* lepton, with identification and isolation requirements chosen to optimise the suppression of the multijet background. Signal leptons must have a  $p_T > 27$  GeV (except in the 1-lepton muon sub-channel where a  $p_T > 25$  GeV is used).

Calorimeter jets are reconstructed from noise-suppressed topological clusters (topoclusters) of calorimeter energy depositions [73], using the anti- $k_t$  algorithm [74] with radius parameter  $R = 1.0$  (large- $R$  jets) or  $R = 0.4$  (small- $R$  jets) implemented in FASTJET [75]. Small- $R$  jets are built from topoclusters calibrated at the electromagnetic scale [76], while large- $R$  jets are built from topoclusters calibrated at the local hadronic scale [73]. Large- $R$  jets are groomed using trimming [77,78] to improve the jet mass resolution and its stability with respect to pile-up by discarding the softer components of jets that originate from initial-state radiation, pile-up interactions, or the underlying event. This is done by reclustering the constituents of the initial large- $R$  jet, using the  $k_t$  algorithm [79,80], into subjets with radius parameter  $R_{\text{sub}} = 0.2$  and removing any subjet that has a  $p_T$  less than 5% of the parent jet  $p_T$ . The large- $R$  jet mass  $m_j$  is computed using tracking and calorimeter information [81]. A dedicated MC-based calibration, similar to the procedure used in Ref. [81], is applied to correct the  $p_T$  and mass of the trimmed jets to the particle level. Large- $R$  jets are required to have  $p_T > 250$  GeV,  $m_j > 50$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.0$ , the last due to tracking acceptance.

Small- $R$  jets are used in building the missing transverse momentum and event categorisation. They are calibrated with a series of simulation-based corrections and *in situ* techniques, including corrections to account for pile-up energy entering the jet area, as described in Ref. [76]. They are required to have  $p_T > 30$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 4.5$ . To reduce the number of small- $R$  jets originating from

<sup>2</sup> For the computation of the impact parameters, the beam line is used to approximate the primary vertex position in the transverse plane.

pile-up interactions, small- $R$  jets are required to pass the jet vertex tagger (JVT) [82] requirement if they are in the range  $p_T < 120$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.5$  due to tracking acceptance.

Track-jets formed from charged-particle tracks are used to reconstruct a candidate two-body  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  decay within the large- $R$  jet. Track-jets are built with the anti- $k_t$  algorithm with a variable radius (VR)  $p_T$ -dependent parameter, from tracks reconstructed in the inner detector with  $p_T > 0.5$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.5$  [83–85]. VR track-jets have an effective jet radius  $R_{\text{eff}}$  proportional to the inverse of the jet  $p_T$  in the jet finding procedure:  $R_{\text{eff}}(p_T) = \rho/p_T$ , where the  $\rho$ -parameter is set to 30 GeV. There are two additional parameters,  $R_{\text{min}}$  and  $R_{\text{max}}$ , used to set the minimum and maximum cut-offs on the jet radius, and these are set to 0.02 and 0.4, respectively. Only VR track-jets with  $p_T > 10$  GeV,  $|\eta| < 2.5$  and with at least two constituents are considered [86]. VR track-jets are matched to the large- $R$  calorimeter jets via ghost-association [87]. Track-jets not associated with large- $R$  jets are also used in the analysis for event categorisation as described in Section 5.

The ‘truth’ flavour labelling of track-jets in simulation is done by geometrically matching the jet to ‘truth’ hadrons, using ‘truth’ information from the generator’s event record. If a  $b$ -hadron with  $p_T$  above 5 GeV is found within  $\Delta R = 0.3$  of the direction of the track-jet, the track-jet is labelled as a  $b$ -jet. If the  $b$ -hadron is matched to more than one track-jet, only the closest track-jet is labelled as a  $b$ -jet. If no  $b$ -hadron is found, the procedure is repeated first for  $c$ -hadrons to label  $c$ -jets and then for  $\tau$ -leptons to label  $\tau$ -jets. As is the case for defining a  $b$ -jet, the labelling is also exclusive for  $c$ - and  $\tau$ -jets. A jet for which no such matching can be made is labelled as a light-flavour jet.

To identify track-jets containing  $b$ -hadron decay products, track-jets are tagged using the multivariate algorithm MV2c10, which exploits the presence of large-impact-parameter tracks, the topological decay chain reconstruction and the displaced vertices from  $b$ -hadron decays [88,89]. The MV2c10 algorithm is configured to achieve an average efficiency of 70% for tagging jets labelled as  $b$ -jets in an MC sample of  $t\bar{t}$  events. This requirement has corresponding rejection factors of 9 and 304 for jets labelled as  $c$ -jets and light-flavour jets, respectively, in simulated  $t\bar{t}$  events. The tagging efficiencies per jet flavour are corrected in the simulation to match those measured in data [86,90,91].

Two additional corrections are applied to the large- $R$  jets to improve the scale and the resolution of their energy and mass measurements. First, to account for semileptonic decays of the  $b$ -hadrons, the four-momentum of the closest reconstructed non-isolated muon candidate within  $\Delta R = \min(0.4, 0.04 + 10 \text{ GeV}/p_T^{\text{muon}})$  of a track-jet matched to the large- $R$  jet by ghost association is added to the calorimeter-based component of the large- $R$  jet four-momentum while its expected calorimeter energy deposits are removed [85]. This is known as the muon-in-jet correction. Non-isolated muons satisfy the ‘medium’ identification criterion [72], but no isolation or impact parameter criteria are applied. Second, in the 2-lepton channel only, a per-event likelihood uses the full reconstruction of the event kinematics to improve the estimate of the energy of the  $b$ -jets [92]. The kinematic fit constrains the  $\ell^+\ell^-b\bar{b}$  system and the additional small- $R$  jets in the event to be balanced in the transverse plane and the dilepton system to the  $Z$  boson mass, by scaling the four-momentum of the objects in the event including the large- $R$  jet, additional small- $R$  jets and leptons within their detector response resolutions. The large- $R$  jet mass is then scaled by the ratio of the energies after and before the correction. For the event selection detailed in Section 5, the large- $R$  jet mass resolution improves by 5% to 10% after the first correction (depending on the lepton channel), while the second correction brings an additional improvement in the 2-lepton channel of up to 40%.

The presence of neutrinos in the  $WH \rightarrow \ell\nu b\bar{b}$  and  $ZH \rightarrow \nu\nu b\bar{b}$  signatures can be inferred from a momentum imbalance in the transverse plane. The missing transverse momentum  $\mathbf{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  is reconstructed as the negative vector sum of the momenta of leptons and small- $R$  jets in the event plus a ‘soft term’ built from additional tracks associated with the primary vertex [93]. Small- $R$  jets used for the  $\mathbf{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  reconstruction are required to have  $p_T > 20$  GeV. The magnitude of  $\mathbf{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  is referred to as  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ . To suppress non-collision and multijet backgrounds in the 0-lepton channel, an additional track-based missing transverse momentum estimator,  $\mathbf{E}_{T,\text{trk}}^{\text{miss}}$ , is built independently as the negative vector sum of the transverse momenta of all tracks from the primary vertex.

An overlap removal procedure is applied to avoid double-counting between reconstructed leptons [9], including hadronically decaying  $\tau$ -leptons [94], and small- $R$  jets [92].

## 5. Event selection

Events are categorised into the 0-, 1- and 2-lepton channels depending on the number of selected electrons and muons to target the  $ZH \rightarrow \nu\nu b\bar{b}$ ,  $WH \rightarrow \ell\nu b\bar{b}$  and  $ZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  signatures, respectively.

The 0-lepton selection is applied to events selected with an  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  trigger with thresholds varying from 70 to 110 GeV depending on the data-taking period to cope with increasing trigger rates at higher instantaneous luminosities. In the 1-lepton channel, single-electron events are required to be triggered by at least one of several unrescaled single-electron triggers. The lowest  $E_T$  threshold of these unrescaled triggers varied with time from 24 to 26 GeV. Events in the single-muon channel were triggered using the same  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  trigger as used in the 0-lepton channel. Given that muons do not enter in the online  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  calculation and that uninstrumented regions affect the coverage of the muon spectrometer, the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  triggers translate into a requirement on the transverse momentum of the lepton and neutrino pair,  $p_T^{\ell\nu}$ , which is more efficient in the analysis phase space than the single-muon triggers. In the 2-lepton channel, the same trigger strategy as in the 1-lepton channel is adopted. The dielectron selection is applied to events triggered by at least one of the un-rescaled single-electron triggers. The dimuon selection is applied to events triggered by an  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  trigger. All triggers used in this analysis are fully efficient for the events selected using the requirements described below.

In all three channels, events are required to contain at least one large- $R$  jet with  $p_T > 250$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.0$ . To select the Higgs boson candidate, the leading  $p_T$  large- $R$  jet is chosen, at least two VR track-jets are required to be matched to it by ghost-association, and the two leading ones are required to be  $b$ -tagged. This jet is referred to as the ‘Higgs-jet candidate’ in the following. To avoid the ambiguous cases of concentric jets, events where the  $b$ -tagged VR track-jets overlap with other VR track-jets, satisfying  $\Delta R/R_s < 1$  (where  $\Delta R$  corresponds to the distance among any pair of VR track-jets and  $R_s$  corresponds to the smaller radius of the considered pair), are removed. The reconstructed transverse momentum  $p_T^V$  of the vector boson corresponds to  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  in the 0-lepton channel, to the magnitude of the vector sum of  $\mathbf{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  and the charged-lepton transverse momentum in the 1-lepton channel, and to the transverse momentum of the 2-lepton system in the 2-lepton channel. The  $p_T^V$  is required to be above 250 GeV in all three channels. The event selection is detailed in Table 2, with further explanations provided below for the non-straightforward selection criteria.

The multijet background in the 0-lepton channel originates mainly from jet energy mismeasurements. To reduce this background to a negligible level, three dedicated selection criteria are applied. Events are removed if the missing transverse momentum is pointing towards the direction of the Higgs-jet candidate

**Table 2**  
Event selection requirements for the boosted  $VH, H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  analysis channels and sub-channels.

Selection	0 lepton channel	1 lepton channel		2 leptons channel	
		e sub-channel	$\mu$ sub-channel	e sub-channel	$\mu$ sub-channel
Trigger	$E_T^{\text{miss}}$	Single electron	$E_T^{\text{miss}}$	Single electron	$E_T^{\text{miss}}$
Leptons	0 <i>baseline</i> leptons	1 <i>signal</i> lepton $p_T > 27$ GeV no second <i>baseline</i> lepton	$p_T > 25$ GeV -	2 <i>baseline</i> leptons among which $\geq 1$ <i>signal</i> lepton, $p_T > 27$ GeV both leptons of the same flavour opposite sign muons	
$E_T^{\text{miss}}$	$> 250$ GeV	$> 50$ GeV	-	-	
$p_T^V$	$p_T^V > 250$ GeV				
Large- $R$ jets	at least one large- $R$ jet, $p_T > 250$ GeV, $ \eta  < 2.0$				
Track-jets	at least two track-jets, $p_T > 10$ GeV, $ \eta  < 2.5$ , matched to the leading large- $R$ jet				
$b$ -tagged jets	leading two track-jets matched to the leading large- $R$ must be $b$ -tagged (MV2c10, 70%)				
$m_j$	$> 50$ GeV				
$\min[\Delta\phi(\mathbf{E}_T^{\text{miss}}, \text{small-}R \text{ jets})]$	$> 30^\circ$	-			
$\Delta\phi(\mathbf{E}_T^{\text{miss}}, H_{\text{cand}})$	$> 120^\circ$	-			
$\Delta\phi(\mathbf{E}_T^{\text{miss}}, \mathbf{E}_{T, \text{trk}}^{\text{miss}})$	$< 90^\circ$	-			
$\Delta y(V, H_{\text{cand}})$	-	$ \Delta y(V, H_{\text{cand}})  < 1.4$			
$m_{\ell\ell}$	-			$66 \text{ GeV} < m_{\ell\ell} < 116 \text{ GeV}$	
Lepton $p_T$ imbalance	-			$(p_T^{\ell_1} - p_T^{\ell_2})/p_T^Z < 0.8$	

( $\Delta\phi(\mathbf{E}_T^{\text{miss}}, H_{\text{cand}}) > 120^\circ$ ). Events are also removed if the calorimetric  $\mathbf{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  and the track  $\mathbf{E}_{T, \text{trk}}^{\text{miss}}$  are far apart ( $\Delta\phi(\mathbf{E}_T^{\text{miss}}, \mathbf{E}_{T, \text{trk}}^{\text{miss}}) < 90^\circ$ ). The  $\mathbf{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  is required to be isolated from any calorimeter small- $R$  jet with transverse momentum in excess of 70 GeV ( $\min[\Delta\phi(\mathbf{E}_T^{\text{miss}}, \text{small-}R \text{ jets})] > 30^\circ$ ). In this case, only small- $R$  jets not overlapping with the Higgs-jet candidate within  $\Delta R = 1.0$  are considered.

In the 1-lepton channel, the isolation requirements remove most of the non-prompt lepton background. An additional  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  requirement is applied in the electron sub-channel to reduce this background further. In order to reduce other backgrounds, such as top and  $W$ +jets production, a further selection on the rapidity difference between the Higgs-jet candidate and the vector boson is applied ( $|\Delta y(V, H_{\text{cand}})| < 1.4$ ). The  $W$ -boson rapidity is estimated assuming that  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  is the  $p_T$  of the neutrino and the longitudinal momentum of the neutrino is estimated using the  $W$ -boson mass constraint. This method leads to a quadratic equation for the longitudinal momentum of the neutrino. In case of two real solutions: the retained solution is the one that minimises the difference between the longitudinal boost of the  $W$  boson and the Higgs boson. In case of no real solution, the imaginary part is set to 0.<sup>3</sup>

In the 2-lepton channel, where two same-flavour leptons are required (in the dimuon sub-channel the two muons are further required to be of opposite sign, in the dielectron case this selection is not applied due to the comparatively higher charge misidentification), the rapidity difference ( $|\Delta y(V, H_{\text{cand}})| < 1.4$ ) effectively reduces the main  $Z$ +jets background. A requirement is imposed on the lepton  $p_T$  imbalance ( $(p_T^{\ell_1} - p_T^{\ell_2})/p_T^Z < 0.8$ ), which is sensitive to the  $Z$  boson polarisation [95]. Since the  $Z$  boson has different states of polarisation in the  $ZH$  signal and the  $Z$ +jets background, this selection further reduces this background.

Since the signal-to-background ratio increases for large Higgs boson transverse momenta [12,96], events are further split into two  $p_T^V$  bins with  $250 < p_T^V < 400$  GeV and with  $p_T^V \geq 400$  GeV.

<sup>3</sup> This procedure is equivalent to setting the reconstructed  $W$  transverse mass to the  $W$  mass.

The selection efficiency in the 0-, 1- and 2-lepton channels and two  $p_T^V$  bins ranges between approximately 6% and 16% for the  $WH$  and  $ZH$  processes where the  $W$  and  $Z$  bosons decay leptonically and the Higgs boson decays into a pair of  $b$ -quarks. The analysis does not explicitly select  $\tau$ -leptons but they are accounted for in the case of leptonically decaying  $\tau$ -leptons in the 1- and 2-lepton channels and hadronically decaying  $\tau$ -leptons in the 0-lepton channel if they are misidentified as jets.

As discussed in Section 1 the overlaps between the event selections presented herein and those of Ref. [15] are non negligible. In the  $250 \text{ GeV} < p_T^V < 400 \text{ GeV}$  region, approximately 40% of the signal events are selected by both sets of selections, and the fraction of signal events uniquely selected by the large- $R$  jet analysis varies between 5% and 30% with increasing  $p_T^V$ . In the  $p_T^V > 400 \text{ GeV}$  region, the overlap decreases progressively to reach approximately 15% and the unique large- $R$  jet analysis signal events increase to 75% at a  $p_T^V$  of around 700 GeV.

The  $t\bar{t}$  process is a major background in the 0- and 1-lepton channels. For  $t\bar{t}$  events, the  $b$ -tagged track-jets associated with the Higgs-jet candidate are mainly a  $b$ - and a  $c$ -jet (the former from a top-quark decay and the latter from the hadronic  $W$  boson decay) and therefore the second  $b$ -jet from the other top-quark is often expected to be identified as an additional  $b$ -tagged track-jet not associated with the Higgs-jet candidate. Taking this into account, signal regions (SR) in the 0- and 1-lepton channels are defined by vetoing on  $b$ -tagged track-jets outside the Higgs-jet candidate and control regions (CR), enriched in  $t\bar{t}$  events, are built from events which fail this veto. The SRs and CRs are accounted for in the same way in the fit, but CRs are dominated by backgrounds and are used to constrain specific background components.

Events in the 0- and 1-lepton channels are further categorised depending on the number of small- $R$  jets not matched to the Higgs-jet candidate, i.e. with  $\Delta R(H_{\text{cand}}, \text{small-}R \text{ jet}) > 1.0$ . Two categories are defined: a *high-purity* signal region (HP SR) with 0 small- $R$  jets not matched to the Higgs-jet candidate and a *low-purity* signal region (LP SR) with  $\geq 1$  small- $R$  jets not matched to the Higgs-jet candidate.

The ten SRs and the four CRs are summarised in Table 3.

**Table 3**

Summary of the definition of the analysis regions. Signal enriched regions are marked with the label SR. There are regions with relatively large signal purity (HP SR) and with low purity (LP SR). Background enriched regions are marked with the label CR. The shorthand “add” stands for additional small- $R$  jets, i.e. number of small- $R$  jets not matched to the Higgs-jet candidate.

Channel	Categories					
	$250 < p_T^V < 400$ GeV			$p_T^V \geq 400$ GeV		
	0 add. $b$ -track-jets		$\geq 1$ add. $b$ -track-jets	0 add. $b$ -track-jets		$\geq 1$ add. $b$ -track-jets
	0 add. small- $R$ jets	$\geq 1$ add. small- $R$ jets		0 add. small- $R$ jets	$\geq 1$ add. small- $R$ jets	
0-lepton	HP SR	LP SR	CR	HP SR	LP SR	CR
1-lepton	HP SR	LP SR	CR	HP SR	LP SR	CR
2-lepton	SR			SR		

## 6. Background composition and estimation

The background contribution in the SRs is different for each of the three channels. In the 0-lepton channel, the dominant background sources are  $Z$  + jets and  $t\bar{t}$  events with a significant contribution from  $W$  + jets and diboson production. In the 1-lepton channel, the largest backgrounds are  $t\bar{t}$  and  $W$  + jets production followed by the single-top background. In the 2-lepton channel,  $Z$  + jets production is the dominant background followed by the  $ZZ$  background. Contributions from  $t\bar{t}V$  and  $t\bar{t}H$  are negligible. The multijet background, due to semileptonic heavy-flavour-hadron decays or misidentified jets, is found to be negligible in the 0- and 2-lepton channels as well as in the 1-lepton muon sub-channel after applying the event selections described in Section 5, as confirmed using data-driven techniques. In the 1-lepton electron sub-channel its contribution is not neglected. All initial background distribution shapes prior to the fit (described in Section 8), except those for multijet, are estimated from the samples of simulated events. The multijet shape and normalisation are determined using data.

The  $W/Z$ +jets simulated event samples are split into 6 categories depending on the ‘truth’ labels of the track-jets ghost-associated to the Higgs-jet candidate:  $W/Z + bb$ ,  $W/Z + bc$ ,  $W/Z + bl$ ,  $W/Z + cc$ ,  $W/Z + cl$  and  $W/Z + ll$ ; in this notation  $l$  refers to a light-flavour jet.<sup>4</sup> The  $W/Z + bb$  fraction corresponds to approximately 80% of the total  $W/Z$ +jets background. This categorisation is used in the uncertainties variations of the ratios  $V + bc/V + bb$ ,  $V + bl/V + bb$  and  $V + cc/V + bb$  to cover uncertainties on the flavour composition in  $V$ +jets production, see Section 7.

In the statistical analysis described in Section 8, the components  $W/Z + bb$ ,  $W/Z + bc$ ,  $W/Z + bl$  and  $W/Z + cc$  are treated as a single background component denoted by  $W/Z$ +HF. The  $W$ +HF and  $Z$ +HF contributions, which together constitute 90% of  $V$ +jets background, are estimated separately, each with its own normalisation factor determined from the fit to data.

The  $t\bar{t}$  production background arises from topologies with decays of  $W$  bosons into  $\tau$ -leptons which then decay hadronically in the 0-lepton channel and from  $W$  bosons decaying into  $e/\mu$  in the 1-lepton channel. In the 2-lepton channel the  $t\bar{t}$  contribution is much smaller. For the 0- and 1-lepton channels, two independent normalisation factors are considered and left floating in the fit, where they are constrained by the CRs.

Single-top production contributes to the 0- and 1-lepton channels and  $Wt$  production is the dominant process ( $s$ - and  $t$ -channel processes amount to less than 1% globally and less than 5% of the single-top contribution).

The diboson background process consists of final states arising mostly from  $WZ$  and  $ZZ$  events, where a  $Z$  boson decays into a pair of  $b$ -quarks. This process has a topology very similar to that of the signal, exhibiting a peak in  $m_j$  at the mass of the hadronically decaying vector boson. Although it is a subdominant contribution, it provides an important reference for validation. Its normalisation is measured simultaneously with the  $VH$  signal.

In the 1-lepton channel, the multijet background originating from jets misidentified as leptons and/or due to semileptonic heavy-flavour-hadron decays cannot be neglected. Since MC simulation samples are statistically limited and are not expected to reproduce the multijet production in this corner of the phase space, it is estimated from a template fit using the data. The  $m_j$  templates in the electron and muon sub-channels are taken from dedicated CRs enriched in multijet background, obtained from the inversion of the tight lepton isolation requirements and the removal of the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  requirement, and after subtraction of the other backgrounds. The multijet normalisations are estimated in the SRs from a fit to the transverse mass<sup>5</sup> distribution separately for the electron and muon sub-channels. The contribution of the multijet background is found to be negligible in the muon sub-channel. In the electron sub-channel it is approximately 2% of the total background, with an uncertainty of 55% estimated mainly from the statistical uncertainty of the transverse mass fit. This contribution and its associated uncertainty are taken into account in the signal extraction fit.

## 7. Systematic uncertainties

Systematic uncertainties can have an impact on the overall signal and background yields, on the shapes of the jet mass distributions, on the CR to SR extrapolations, and on the relative acceptances between the HP and LP SRs and between the  $p_T^V$  bins. Systematic uncertainties are discussed herein for three main categories: experimental, signal modelling, and background modelling.

### 7.1. Experimental systematic uncertainties

The uncertainties in the small- $R$  jet energy scale and resolution have contributions from *in situ* calibration studies, from the dependency on the pile-up activity and on the flavour composition of the jets [76]. For large- $R$  jets, the uncertainties in the energy and mass scales are based on a comparison of the ratio of calorimeter-based to track-based measurements in dijet data and simulation, as described in Ref. [81]. The impact of the jet energy scale and resolution uncertainties on the large- $R$  jet mass are assessed by applying different calibration scales and smearings to

<sup>4</sup> When labelling jets in the  $V$  + jets backgrounds modelling, the labelling of  $\tau$ -jets is omitted and the negligible  $\tau$ -lepton contribution is included with light-flavour jets.

<sup>5</sup> The transverse mass  $m_T$  of the  $W$  boson candidate in the event is calculated using the lepton candidate and  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  according to  $m_T = \sqrt{2p_T^L E_T^{\text{miss}} (1 - \cos \Delta\phi(\ell, E_T^{\text{miss}}))}$ .

the jet observables in the simulation, according to the estimated uncertainties. An absolute uncertainty of 2% is used for the jet energy resolution while a relative uncertainty of 20% is used for the jet mass resolution, consistent with previous studies for trimmed jets [97,98].

The  $b$ -tagging uncertainties are assessed from the calibration data in various kinematic regions and separately for  $b$ -,  $c$ -, and light-flavour jets. The uncertainties are then decomposed in each of the flavour categories into independent components. An additional uncertainty is included to account for the extrapolation to jets with  $p_T$  beyond the kinematic reach of the data calibration (the thresholds are 250 GeV, 140 GeV and 300 GeV for  $b$ -,  $c$ - and light-flavour jets, respectively) [86,90,91].

Other experimental systematic uncertainties with a smaller impact are those in the lepton energy and momentum scales, in lepton reconstruction and identification efficiency, and in the efficiency of the triggers. An uncertainty associated with the modelling of pile-up in the simulation is included to cover the difference between the predicted and measured inelastic cross-sections [99]. The uncertainties in the energy scale and resolution of the small- $R$  jets and leptons are propagated to the calculation of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ , which also has additional uncertainties from the scale, resolution and reconstruction efficiency of the tracks used to compute the soft term, along with the modelling of the underlying event [93].

## 7.2. Signal modelling systematic uncertainties

The systematic uncertainties that affect the modelling of the signal are derived closely following the procedure outlined in Refs. [11,16,92] and in Refs. [100,101] for uncertainties specific to STXS. The systematic uncertainties in the calculations of the  $VH$  production cross-sections and the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  branching fraction are assigned following the recommendations of the LHC Higgs Cross Section Working Group [56,57,102–104]. Acceptance and shape systematic uncertainties are derived to account for missing higher-order QCD and EW corrections, for PDF+ $\alpha_S$  uncertainties, and for variations of the PS and UE models. Factorisation and renormalisation scales are varied by factors of 0.5 and 2. PDF-related uncertainties are derived following Ref. [38]. The effects of the uncertainties from missing higher-order EW corrections, PDF+ $\alpha_S$  and QCD scale variations on the jet mass shape are negligible. The PS and UE uncertainty is evaluated by comparing the nominal signal POWHEG-Box samples showered by PYTHIA 8 with alternative samples showered by HERWIG 7 [105].

## 7.3. Background modelling systematic uncertainties

The principal additional modelling uncertainties for the backgrounds that were considered are the following: renormalisation and factorisation scale variations by factors of 0.5 and 2 for higher order in QCD corrections of the matrix element of the process; merging scale variations from multi-leg simulations; resummation scale or parton shower uncertainties; PDF uncertainties; and differences with alternative MC generators. The impact of these systematic uncertainties in terms of normalisation, shape, acceptance and extrapolation between analysis regions is then estimated and included in the fit model (described in Section 8). Given that the analysis is based on the fit of the  $m_j$  variable only, all shape uncertainties are estimated with respect to this observable.

The normalisations of the  $W/Z$ +HF backgrounds are free parameters in the fit. They are determined thanks to the use of the jet mass distributions in SRs once  $t\bar{t}$  is constrained from CR enriched in  $t\bar{t}$  events. In addition to scale variations within SHERPA 2.2.1, alternative samples for acceptance and shape variations generated with MADGRAPH interfaced to PYTHIA 8 were con-

sidered. Finally, variations in the  $V+bc/V+bb$ ,  $V+bl/V+bb$  and  $V+cc/V+bb$  ratios are accounted for independently for the  $W$ - and  $Z$ -boson backgrounds.

For top-quark pair production modelling uncertainties, specific initial-state radiation (ISR) and final-state radiation (FSR) PYTHIA parameters are used to assess the related systematic uncertainties. In addition to the typical scale variations, alternative NLO samples using the MADGRAPH5\_aMC@NLO and HERWIG 7 generators were considered. The  $t\bar{t}$  normalisation is free in the fit and mainly constrained in the CRs for the 0- and 1-lepton channel. For the 2-lepton channel it is constrained to its nominal predicted value with an uncertainty of 20%. Due to top decays not fully contained within the large- $R$  jet, the relative number of events where exactly two and where three or more VR track-jets are ghost-associated to the large- $R$  jet can modify the large- $R$  jet mass template. This is accounted for by an additional uncertainty estimated from the impact on the  $t\bar{t}$  background template of a 20% variation in this relative ratio.

The normalisations, acceptances and shapes of all single-top production processes are constrained to their predictions within the corresponding uncertainties. For the dominant  $Wt$  channel, ISR/FSR uncertainties as well as alternative generator samples, HERWIG 7 and MADGRAPH5\_aMC@NLO, are considered. Since the  $Wt$  channel has the same flavour composition and a similar shape in the 0- and 1-lepton channels, the modelling uncertainties were studied in the 1-lepton channel and then propagated to the 0-lepton channel. An associated extrapolation uncertainty is taken into account.

To account for the ambiguities in the interference between  $t\bar{t}$  and single-top production, an alternative sample generated with POWHEG-BOX interfaced to PYTHIA 8, using the diagram subtraction (DS) scheme, is used [68]. The difference between the DS and DR schemes for the  $Wt$  single-top production is accounted for as an additional systematic uncertainty.

For diboson production, in addition to the scale variations for acceptance, extrapolation and shape systematic uncertainties, alternative diboson samples were generated using POWHEG-BOX interfaced to PYTHIA 8 and the difference with respect to the SHERPA nominal samples was used as an additional uncertainty.

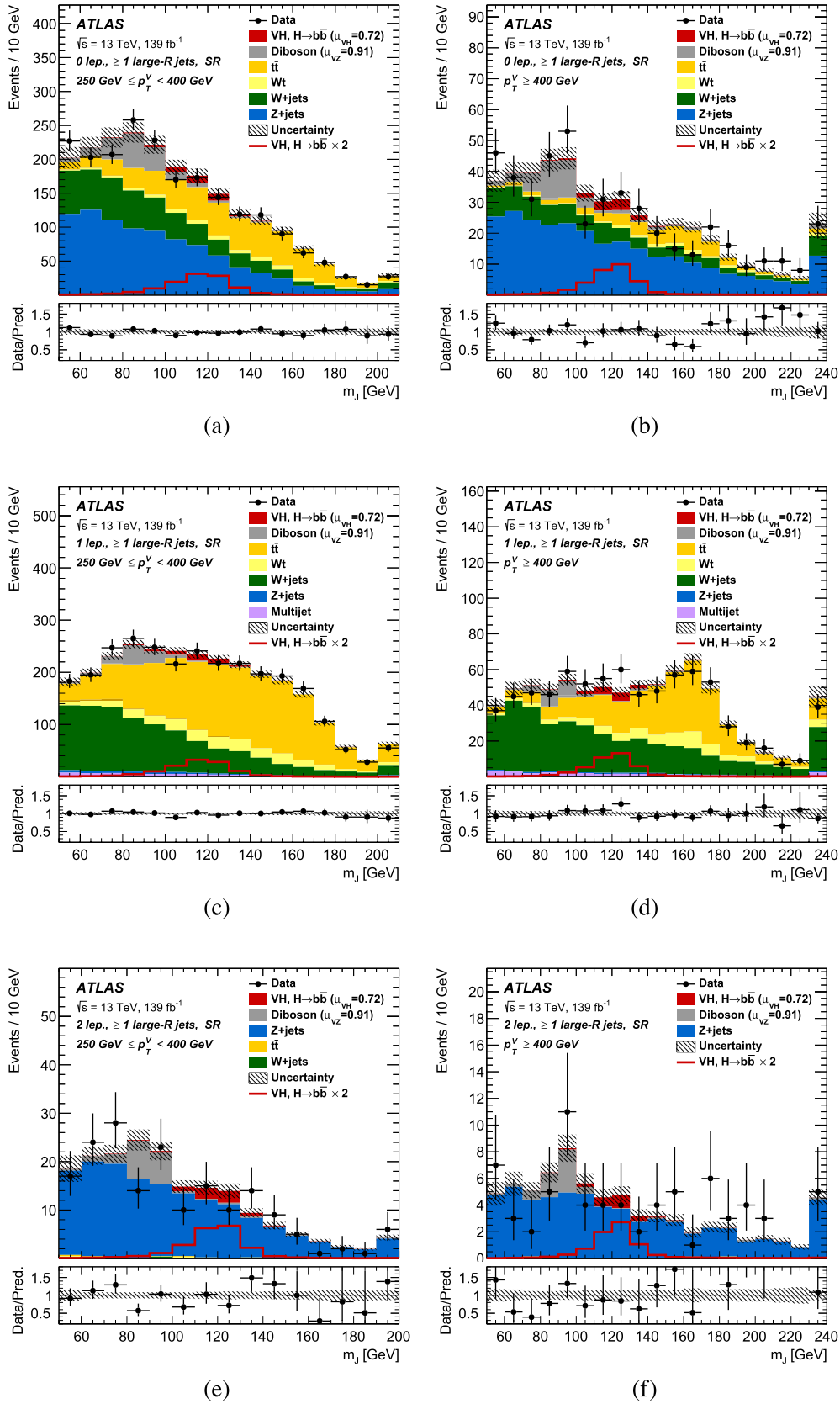
## 8. Results

The results are obtained from a binned maximum-profile-likelihood fit to the data of the  $m_j$  distribution, using all the signal and control regions defined in Section 5. The fit is performed using the RooStats framework [106,107]. Signal and background  $m_j$  templates are determined from MC simulation (described in Section 3) in all cases except for the multijet background in the 1-lepton channel, which is extracted from the data as discussed in Section 6.

The likelihood function is constructed from the product of the Poisson probabilities of each bin of the mass distributions and auxiliary terms used to model systematic uncertainties. The likelihood function is described in more detail in Ref. [92]. The parameters of interest (POI) are the signal strengths  $\mu$ , multiplication factors that scale the expected SM Higgs boson signal, in one or more sub-channels, or the  $VZ$  process. The signal strength parameters are extracted simultaneously with the overall diboson signal strength  $\mu_{VZ}^{bb}$  by maximising the likelihood.

Systematic uncertainties are modelled in the likelihood function by parameterised variations of the number of signal and background events, and of the templates through nuisance parameters (NP). Systematic variations of the templates that are subject to large statistical fluctuations are smoothed, and systematic uncertainties that have a negligible impact on the final results are pruned away region-by-region [108]. NPs corresponding to most





**Fig. 1.** The  $m_j$  post-fit distributions in (a, b) the 0-lepton, (c, d) 1-lepton and (e, f) 2-lepton signal regions for 2- $b$ -tagged events for (a, c, e)  $250 \text{ GeV} < p_T^V < 400 \text{ GeV}$  and (b, d, f)  $p_T^V \geq 400 \text{ GeV}$ . The low-purity and high-purity categories in the case of the 0-lepton and 1-lepton channels are merged in this figure. The background contributions after the likelihood fit are shown as filled histograms. The Higgs boson signal ( $m_H = 125 \text{ GeV}$ ) is shown as a filled histogram on top of the fitted backgrounds normalised to the signal yield extracted from data ( $\mu_{H \rightarrow b\bar{b}}^{\text{th}} = 0.72$ ), and unstacked as an unfilled histogram, scaled by the SM prediction times a factor of two. The size of the combined statistical and systematic uncertainty for the sum of the fitted signal and background is indicated by the hatched band. The highest bin in the distributions contains the overflow. The ratio of the data to the sum of the fitted signal and background is shown in the lower panel.

**Table 4**

Factors applied to the nominal normalisations of the  $t\bar{t}$ ,  $W + \text{HF}$  and  $Z + \text{HF}$  backgrounds, as obtained from the likelihood fit. The errors represent the combined statistical and systematic uncertainties.

Process and category	Normalisation factor
$t\bar{t}$ 0-lepton	$0.88 \pm 0.10$
$t\bar{t}$ 1-lepton	$0.83 \pm 0.09$
$W + \text{HF}$	$1.12 \pm 0.14$
$Z + \text{HF}$	$1.32 \pm 0.16$

uncertainties discussed in Section 7 are constrained using Gaussian or log-normal probability density functions as auxiliary terms in the likelihood. The normalisations of the largest backgrounds,  $t\bar{t}$  (in the 0- and 1-lepton channels),  $W + \text{HF}$  and  $Z + \text{HF}$ , are left unconstrained in the fit. The background normalisation factor values from the fit correspond to  $0.88 \pm 0.10$  and  $0.83 \pm 0.09$  for  $t\bar{t}$ , in the 0- and 1-lepton channels, respectively;  $1.12 \pm 0.14$  for  $W + \text{HF}$  and  $1.32 \pm 0.16$  for  $Z + \text{HF}$  and are also summarised in Table 4. The fit model uses a single normalisation factor for  $Z + \text{HF}$  and compatible results were found when using two different factors for the 0- and 2-lepton channels. To account for the uncertainty due to the limited size of the MC simulation samples, an NP is used for each bin of the templates [109].

The  $m_j$  distributions with signal strengths, background normalisations and all NPs set at their best-fit values, are shown in Fig. 1 for all three channels' SRs and in Fig. 2 for the CRs. The low-purity and high-purity categories in the case of the 0-lepton and 1-lepton channels are merged in Fig. 1. In all SRs and CRs a good agreement between the data and the prediction is observed.

For a Higgs boson mass of 125 GeV, when all lepton channels are combined, the observed excess with respect to the background-only hypothesis has a significance of 2.1 standard deviations, to be compared with an expectation of 2.7 standard deviations. The fitted  $\mu_{VH}^{bb}$  value is:

$$\mu_{VH}^{bb} = 0.72_{-0.36}^{+0.39} = 0.72_{-0.28}^{+0.29}(\text{stat.})_{-0.22}^{+0.26}(\text{syst.}).$$

In this result, the largest uncertainties are statistical and include the impact from the floating background normalisations unconstrained in the fit. The latter component is subdominant. The impact of systematic uncertainties is almost as important as the total statistical uncertainty. The dominant source of systematic uncertainty is experimental and related to the large- $R$  jet calibration, in particular in the  $m_j$  resolution, amounting to an impact of approximately 0.13 on  $\mu_{VH}^{bb}$ . The second largest source of systematic uncertainty is the background modelling, which overall has an impact of approximately 0.10 on the result. The limited size of the MC simulation samples has a non-negligible impact of 0.09. Systematic uncertainties in the signal modelling have an impact of approximately 0.04, on par with uncertainties related to small- $R$  jets. The breakdown of the systematic uncertainties in the measurement of the signal strength is displayed in Table 5.

The  $m_j$  distribution is shown in Fig. 3(a) summed over all channels and signal regions, weighted by their respective values of the ratio of the fitted Higgs boson signal to background yields and after subtraction of all backgrounds except for the  $WZ$  and  $ZZ$  diboson processes.

Fig. 3(b) shows the results of: a fit with six  $VH$  POIs measuring the individual signal strengths in each of the three channels and  $p_T^V$  bins separately; a three  $VH$  POI fit measuring the combined signal strengths in each channel; a two  $VH$  POI fit combining all channels in the two  $p_T^V$  bins separately; and the overall single  $VH$  POI combination.

For  $VZ$  production the fitted signal strength  $\mu_{VZ}^{bb}$  is

$$\mu_{VZ}^{bb} = 0.91_{-0.23}^{+0.29} = 0.91 \pm 0.15(\text{stat.})_{-0.17}^{+0.24}(\text{syst.}),$$

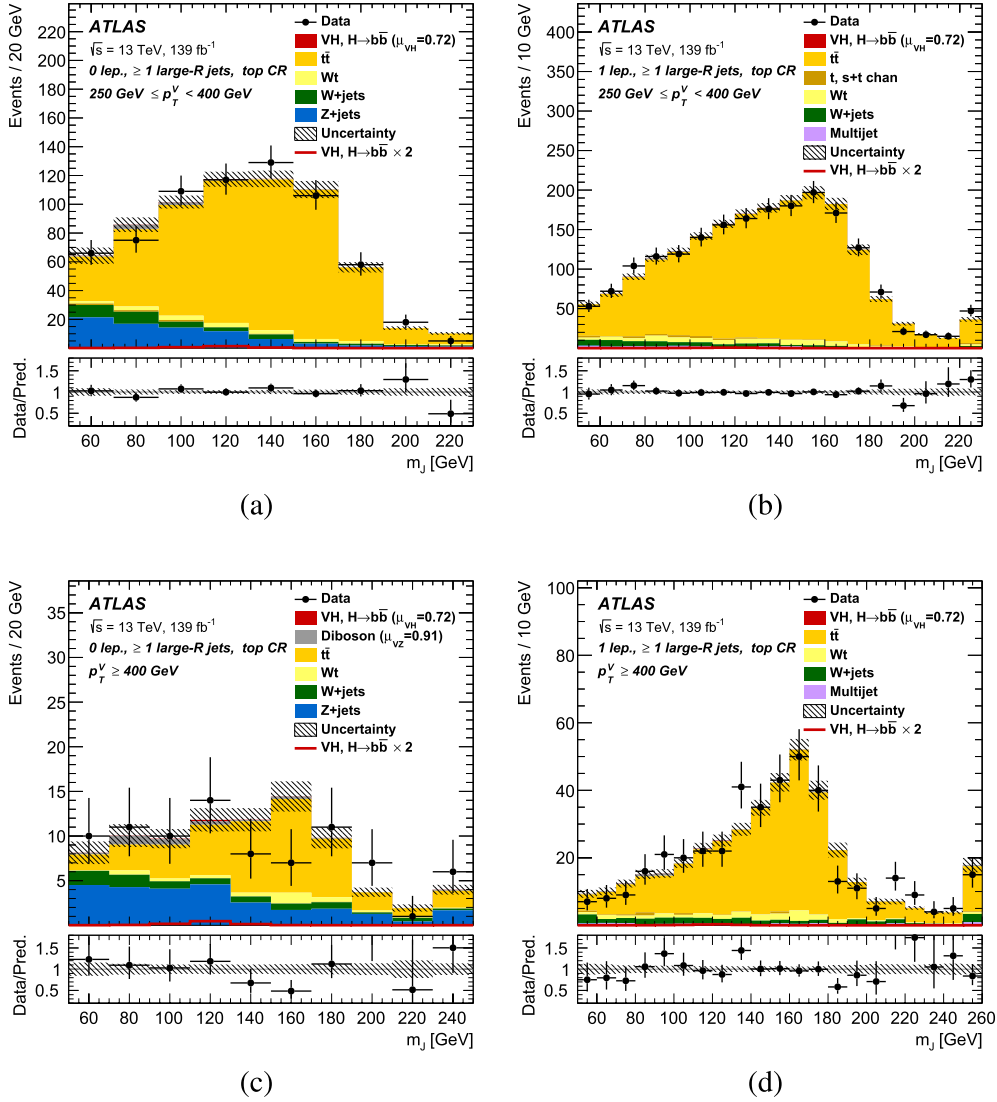
**Table 5**

Breakdown of the absolute contributions to the uncertainty in  $\mu_{VH}^{bb}$  inclusive in  $p_T^V$ . The sum in quadrature of the systematic uncertainties attached to the categories differs from the total systematic uncertainty due to correlations. The reported values represent the average between the positive and negative uncertainties on  $\mu_{VH}^{bb}$ .

Source of uncertainty	Avg. impact
Total	0.372
Statistical	0.283
Systematic	0.240
Experimental uncertainties	
Small- $R$ jets	0.038
Large- $R$ jets	0.133
$E_T^{\text{miss}}$	0.007
Leptons	0.010
$b$ -tagging	0.016
$c$ -jets	0.011
light-flavour jets	0.008
extrapolation	0.004
Pile-up	0.001
Luminosity	0.013
Theoretical and modelling uncertainties	
Signal	0.038
Backgrounds	0.100
$\leftrightarrow Z + \text{jets}$	0.048
$\leftrightarrow W + \text{jets}$	0.058
$\leftrightarrow t\bar{t}$	0.035
$\leftrightarrow$ Single top quark	0.027
$\leftrightarrow$ Diboson	0.032
$\leftrightarrow$ Multijet	0.009
MC statistical	0.092

in agreement with the SM prediction and the  $W^\pm Z$  differential cross-section measurement performed by ATLAS at high transverse momentum of the  $Z$  boson ( $p_T^Z > 220$  GeV) in the fully leptonic channel ( $W^\pm Z \rightarrow \ell' \nu \ell^+ \ell^-$ ) [110]. The simultaneous fit tests the performance of the analysis on an irreducible background, the known  $VZ$  production, with a topology similar to the  $VH$  signal. With all three lepton channels combined, a significance of 5.4 standard deviations is observed for the  $VZ$  process, compared to an expectation of 5.7 standard deviations. The correlation with the  $\mu_{VH}^{bb}$  signal strength is approximately 11%. The statistical uncertainties amount to approximately 60% of the total uncertainty. The dominant source of systematic uncertainty is the background modelling, which has an impact of approximately 0.16 on the result. The source of systematic uncertainty related to the large- $R$  jet reconstruction follows closely, with an impact of approximately 0.09 on  $\mu_{VZ}^{bb}$ .

The cross-sections in the STXS framework are measured separately for  $ZH$  and  $WH$  production in two  $p_T^V$  regions,  $250 \text{ GeV} < p_T^V < 400 \text{ GeV}$  and  $p_T^V \geq 400 \text{ GeV}$ . The analysis closely follows the strategy used in Ref. [11]. The expected signal distributions and acceptance times efficiencies for each STXS region are estimated from the simulated signal samples by selecting events using the generator's 'truth' information, in particular the 'truth'  $p_T^V$ , denoted by  $p_T^{V,t}$ . The likelihood function used is different from the one used to extract the  $\mu_{VH}^{bb}$  and  $\mu_{VZ}^{bb}$  results presented before. It has multiple POIs corresponding to the cross-sections in the four regions used in the analysis, multiplied by the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  and  $V \rightarrow \text{leptons}$  branching fractions. These four regions, i.e.  $ZH$  and  $WH$  production and the two  $p_T^{V,t}$  bins, are known as reduced stage-1.2 regions in the STXS framework [111]. The sources of systematic uncertainty are identical to those defined in Section 7, except for the theoretical cross-section and branching fraction uncertainties, which are not included in the likelihood function because they affect the signal strength measurements but not the STXS measurements.



**Fig. 2.** The  $m_j$  post-fit distributions in the  $t\bar{t}$  control region for (a, b) the 0-lepton channel and the 1-lepton channel for  $250 \text{ GeV} < p_T^V < 400 \text{ GeV}$  and (c, d) the 0-lepton channel and the 1-lepton channel for  $p_T^V > 400 \text{ GeV}$ . The background contributions after the likelihood fit are shown as filled histograms. The Higgs boson signal ( $m_H = 125 \text{ GeV}$ ) is shown as a filled histogram on top of the fitted backgrounds normalised to the signal yield extracted from data ( $\mu_{VH}^{bb} = 0.72$ ), and unstacked as an unfilled histogram, scaled by the SM prediction times a factor of 2. The size of the combined statistical and systematic uncertainty for the sum of the fitted signal and background is indicated by the hatched band. The highest bin in the distributions contains the overflow. The ratio of the data to the sum of the fitted signal and background is shown in the lower panel.

The cross-sections are not constrained to be positive in the fit. The measured reduced stage-1.2  $VH$  cross-section times branching fraction  $\sigma \times B$  in each STXS bin, together with the SM predictions are summarised in Fig. 4 where the red error bands correspond to the theoretical uncertainty of the fiducial cross-section prediction in each bin. The measurements are also reported in Table 6 and are in agreement with the SM predictions from the signal MC sample. The principal sources of systematic uncertainties are similar to those affecting  $\mu_{VH}^{bb}$ .

These results complement and extend those obtained by the small- $R$  jets analysis [15] using the same dataset. The latter provides a more precise measurement of the cross-section in the inclusive  $p_T^V > 250 \text{ GeV}$  region. This can be attributed to the larger acceptance at lower  $p_T^V$  value, the usage of more precise physics objects calibration and to the use of multivariate analysis techniques. The results obtained by the two analyses in this region are compatible within one standard deviation.

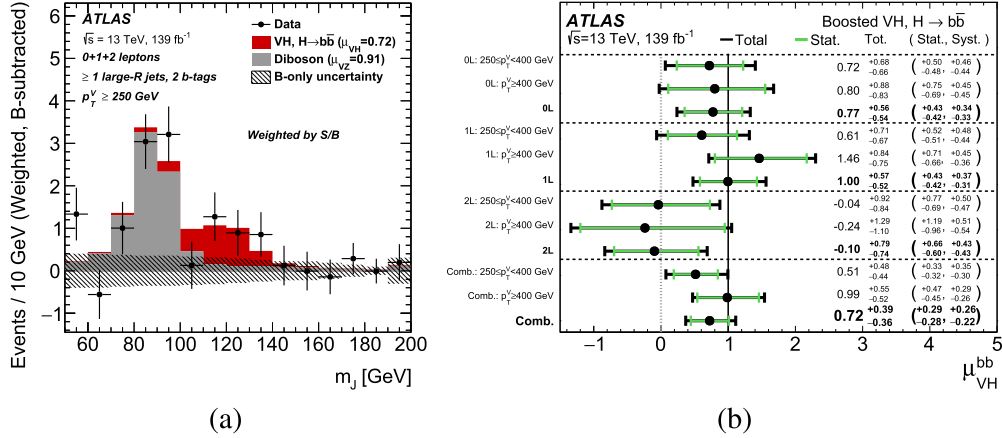
## 9. Constraints on anomalous Higgs boson interactions

The STXS results presented in Section 8 are interpreted in an effective field theory approach where the scale of new physics is significantly larger than the SM electroweak scale so as to affect the measured observables at the LHC only through effective interactions among SM particles.

In this SMEFT approach, the SM Lagrangian is extended with higher-dimensional operators that capture the low-energy limit effects of a fundamental ultraviolet theory, without a priori knowledge of this theory [18]

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \sum_d \frac{1}{\Lambda^{d-4}} \left( \sum_i c_i^{(d)} \mathcal{O}_i^{(d)} \right),$$

where  $\mathcal{O}_i^{(d)}$  are dimension- $d$  operators and  $c_i^{(d)}$  are the corresponding numerical coefficients called Wilson coefficients. All Wilson coefficients are assumed real. In the SM, all Wilson coefficients

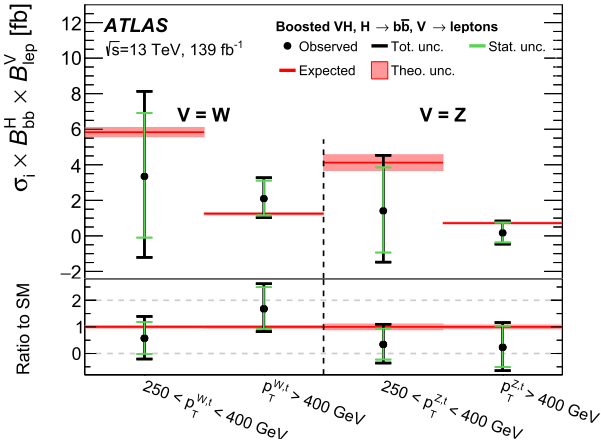


**Fig. 3.** (a)  $m_j$  distribution in data after subtraction of all backgrounds except for the  $WZ$  and  $ZZ$  diboson processes. The contributions from all lepton channels and signal regions are summed and weighted by their respective values of the ratio of fitted Higgs boson signal and background yields. The expected contribution of the associated  $WH$  and  $ZH$  production of a SM Higgs boson with  $m_H = 125$  GeV is shown scaled by the measured combined signal strength ( $\mu_{VH}^{bb} = 0.72$ ). The diboson contribution is normalised to its best-fit value of  $\mu_{VZ}^{bb} = 0.91$ . The size of the combined statistical and systematic uncertainty is indicated by the hatched band. This error band is computed from a full signal-plus-background fit including all the systematic uncertainties defined in Section 7, except for the  $VH/VZ$  experimental and theory uncertainties. (b) Fitted values of the Higgs boson signal strength parameter,  $\mu_{VH}^{bb}$ , for  $m_H = 125$  GeV for the 0-, 1- and 2-lepton channels in different  $p_T^V$  regions separately and for various combinations.

**Table 6**

Measured and predicted  $VH$ ,  $V \rightarrow$  leptons reduced stage-1.2 simplified template cross sections times the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  and  $V \rightarrow$  leptons branching fractions with corresponding uncertainties. All possible  $Z$  decays into neutral and charged leptons are considered.

STXS region ( $ y_H  < 2.5$ , $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ )	SM prediction [fb]	Result	(Tot.)	(Stat.)	(Syst.) [fb]
$W \rightarrow \ell\nu$ ; $p_T^{W,\ell} \in [250, 400]$ GeV	$5.83 \pm 0.26$	3.3	+4.8 -4.6	+3.6 -3.4	+3.2 -3.0
$W \rightarrow \ell\nu$ ; $p_T^{W,\ell} \in [400, \infty]$ GeV	$1.25 \pm 0.06$	2.1	+1.2 -1.1	+1.0 -0.9	+0.6 -0.5
$Z \rightarrow \ell\ell, \nu\nu$ ; $p_T^{Z,\ell} \in [250, 400]$ GeV	$4.12 \pm 0.45$	1.4	+3.1 -2.9	+2.4 -2.3	+1.9 -1.7
$Z \rightarrow \ell\ell, \nu\nu$ ; $p_T^{Z,\ell} \in [400, \infty]$ GeV	$0.72 \pm 0.05$	0.2	+0.7 -0.6	+0.6 -0.5	+0.3 -0.3



**Fig. 4.** Measured  $VH$  reduced stage-1.2 simplified template cross-sections times the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  and  $V \rightarrow$  leptons branching fractions.

are zero. The scale of new physics  $\Lambda$  is a free parameter set to 1 TeV. In this analysis, the Warsaw basis [112] of dimension  $d = 6$  operators is used, taking into account only the lepton- and baryon-number-conserving ones. Furthermore, it only considers the CP-even terms respecting a  $U(3)^5$  flavour symmetry, which affect the  $pp \rightarrow V(\rightarrow \text{leptons})H(\rightarrow b\bar{b})$  process [113]. The operators affecting the signal processes are listed in Table 7 [114].

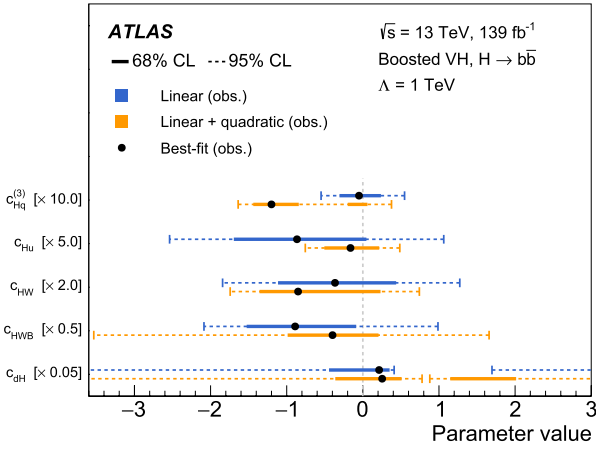
The Wilson coefficients are used to parameterise the STXS and the Higgs boson decay rates [114] from leading-order predictions [113] and can be constrained using the STXS measurements presented in Section 8. The parameterisation of the STXS takes

**Table 7**

Wilson coefficients and their corresponding dimension-6 operators in the Warsaw formulation considered in this analysis [112,114].

Coefficient	Operator
$C_{H\Box}$	$(H^\dagger H)\Box(H^\dagger H)$
$C_{HDD}$	$(H^\dagger D^\mu H)^*(H^\dagger D_\mu H)$
$C_{dH}$	$(H^\dagger H)(\bar{q}_p d_r H)$
$C_{HW}$	$H^\dagger H W_{\mu\nu}^I W^{\mu\nu}$
$C_{HB}$	$H^\dagger H B_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu}$
$C_{HWB}$	$H^\dagger \tau^I H W_{\mu\nu}^I B^{\mu\nu}$
$C_{Hl}^{(1)}$	$H^\dagger i \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H (\bar{l}_p \gamma^\mu l_r)$
$C_{Hl}^{(3)}$	$H^\dagger i \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu^I H (\bar{l}_p \tau^I \gamma^\mu l_r)$
$C_{He}^{(1)}$	$H^\dagger i \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H (\bar{e}_p \gamma^\mu e_r)$
$C_{Hq}^{(1)}$	$H^\dagger i \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H (\bar{q}_p \gamma^\mu q_r)$
$C_{Hq}^{(3)}$	$H^\dagger i \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu^I H (\bar{q}_p \tau^I \gamma^\mu q_r)$
$C_{Hu}$	$H^\dagger i \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H (\bar{u}_p \gamma^\mu u_r)$
$C_{Hd}$	$H^\dagger i \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H (\bar{d}_p \gamma^\mu d_r)$
$C_{ll}^i$	$(\bar{l}_p \gamma^\mu l_r)(\bar{l}_s \gamma^\mu l_t)$

into account the linear terms originating from the interference between SM and non-SM amplitudes as well as the quadratic ones from the squared non-SM amplitudes. The former are of order  $1/\Lambda^2$  and the latter of order  $1/\Lambda^4$ . Given that the current parameterisation takes neither next-to-leading-order effects nor the interference between SM and dimension-8 operators into account, the  $1/\Lambda^4$  terms are incomplete. Where applicable, fit results will be shown for both the linear-only parameterisation and the case where quadratic terms are also included. Since the  $gg \rightarrow ZH$  production cross-section is higher order in QCD, it is kept fixed to its



**Fig. 5.** Summary of the observed individual confidence interval at 68% (solid lines) and 95% (dashed lines) CL for the  $c_{Hq}^{(3)}$ ,  $c_{Hu}$ ,  $c_{HW}$ ,  $c_{HWB}$  and  $c_{dH}$  Wilson coefficients from a fit of the STXS, using a linear-only parameterisation (in blue) and including quadratic terms (in orange).

SM expectation. The impact of the Wilson coefficients on the experimental analysis acceptance is not accounted for in this study. It was, however, verified that the impact was less than 20% of the SMEFT parameterisation in the kinematic range considered in this study.

Due to the limited number of STXS bins, not all Wilson coefficients can be measured simultaneously. The interpretations in the SMEFT framework are carried out with two different approaches. In the first, the four Wilson coefficients the analysis is most sensitive to (after removing degeneracies) in addition to the operator which affect the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  decay, are varied individually, while the others are kept to their Standard Model value of 0. In the second approach, a principal component decomposition is performed which provides a set of four linear combinations (corresponding to the number of STXS measurements) of all the Wilson coefficients of Table 7 and the relative difference of the branching fraction of the Higgs boson into a pair of  $b$ -quarks with its Standard Model prediction ( $\mathcal{I}_{BR}$ ). These combinations of Wilson coefficients, referred to as eigenvector combinations, are fitted simultaneously and their uncertainties are uncorrelated. The combinations are ordered in terms of experimental sensitivity.

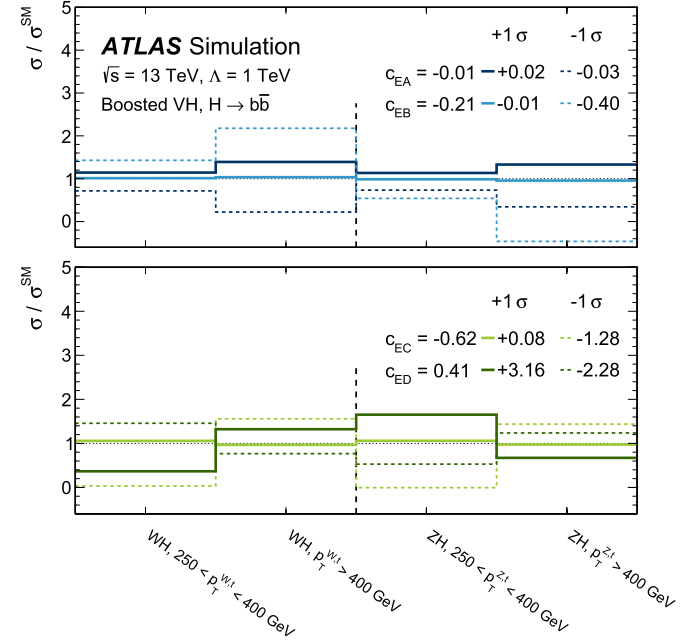
In the first approach, the four leading Wilson coefficients are  $c_{Hq}^{(3)}$ ,  $c_{Hu}$ ,  $c_{HW}$ , and  $c_{HWB}$ . Operators with similar or degenerate effects were removed to get this list of coefficients. The operators  $\mathcal{O}_{Hq}^{(1)}$  and  $\mathcal{O}_{Hd}$  impact the analysis similarly to  $\mathcal{O}_{Hu}$ . Only  $c_{Hu}$  is therefore reported and can be considered as representative of this ensemble of Wilson coefficients. The  $\mathcal{O}_{dH}$  operator was added to the list because it modifies the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  vertex, which is specific to this analysis. The result of the fit is shown in Fig. 5, where both the linear-only and linear-and-quadratic parameterisations are shown. In the case of the  $c_{Hq}^{(3)}$  coefficient the linear-and-quadratic fit slightly favours a negative value of  $c_{Hq}^{(3)}$ , but is also compatible with the SM value of 0 at the 68% confidence level (CL). The negative-log-likelihood one-dimensional profiles for the individual fits of the five aforementioned Wilson coefficients are shown in the Appendix.

The second approach aims at identifying the Wilson coefficients to which the measurements are most sensitive (those to which the measurements are not sensitive manifest themselves as flat directions in the likelihood) and determining a set of orthogonal linear combinations of Wilson coefficients. Only linear terms are considered and four coefficients denoted  $c_{EA}$ ,  $c_{EB}$ ,  $c_{EC}$ , and  $c_{ED}$ , corresponding to linear combinations of the Wilson coefficients according to the eigenvectors of the principal component

**Table 8**

Linear combinations of Wilson coefficients corresponding to the principal component decomposition eigenvectors (coefficients less than 0.10 have been omitted for better readability). The corresponding eigenvalues, representing in the Gaussian approximation the squared inverse uncertainty of the measured eigenvector, are also indicated.

Coefficient	Eigenvalue	Eigenvector combination
$c_{EA}$	1500.0	$0.99 \cdot c_{Hq}^{(3)} + 0.11 \cdot c_{Hu}$
$c_{EB}$	26.9	$0.82 \cdot c_{Hu} - 0.49 \cdot c_{Hq}^{(1)} - 0.24 \cdot c_{Hd} - 0.13 \cdot c_{Hq}^{(3)}$
$c_{EC}$	2.2	$0.67 \cdot \mathcal{I}_{BR} + 0.66 \cdot c_{HW} + 0.18 \cdot c_{Hq}^{(1)} - 0.16 \cdot c_{Hl}^{(3)} + 0.14 \cdot c_{HWB} + 0.12 \cdot c_{Hl}^{(1)}$
$c_{ED}$	0.1	$0.70 \cdot c_{Hq}^{(1)} + 0.52 \cdot c_{HWB} + 0.27 \cdot c_{Hu} - 0.27 \cdot c_{HW} - 0.24 \cdot c_{Hd} + 0.13 \cdot c_{HB}$



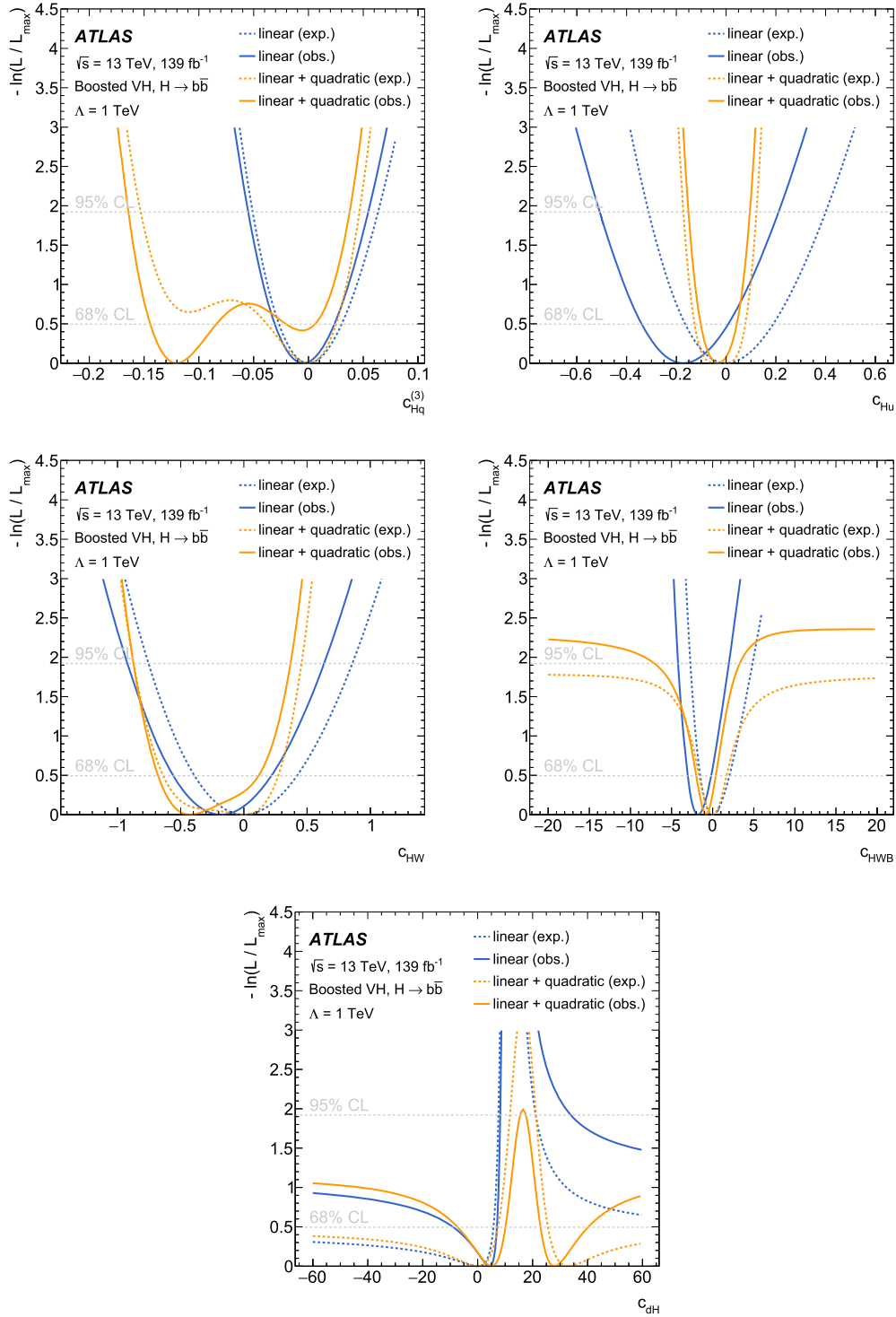
**Fig. 6.** The impact of the measured  $+1\sigma$  (solid) and  $-1\sigma$  (dashed) variations of the four eigenvectors on the reduced STXS bins.

**Table 9**

Expected and observed best-fit values and associated uncertainties (68% CL) from a simultaneous fit of the four coefficients corresponding to the eigenvector combinations.

Coefficient	Expected	Observed
$c_{EA}$	$0.000^{+0.030}_{-0.027}$	$-0.010^{+0.027}_{-0.025}$
$c_{EB}$	$0.00^{+0.20}_{-0.19}$	$-0.21^{+0.19}_{-0.20}$
$c_{EC}$	$0.00^{+0.71}_{-0.67}$	$-0.62^{+0.70}_{-0.66}$
$c_{ED}$	$0.0^{+2.8}_{-2.7}$	$0.4^{+2.8}_{-2.7}$

decomposition, ordered in terms of their experimental sensitivity are extracted from the data. The parameterisation in terms of the main Wilson coefficients (reported in Table 7) and of the branching fraction of the Higgs boson to  $b$ -quarks, is given in Table 8 (coefficients less than 0.10 have been omitted for better readability). In contrast to the first approach where the STXS and the partial and total Higgs decay widths were parameterised independently, this second approach considers the full branching fraction  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  as one linear parameter to remove redundancies in operators that only affect the total Higgs width. The leading combination  $c_{EA}$  is dominated by the  $c_{Hq}^{(3)}$  Wilson coefficient as expected from the fact that it is also the most constrained from the individual fits. The next-to-leading  $c_{EB}$  combination is dominated by the  $c_{Hu}^{(1)}$



**Fig. 7.** The negative log-likelihood profile as a function of the variations of single Wilson coefficients  $c_{Hq}^{(3)}$ ,  $c_{Hu}$ ,  $c_{HW}$ ,  $c_{HWB}$  and  $c_{dH}$ . Wilson coefficients of all other operators are set to zero. The fits are performed using a linear-only parametrisation of the  $VH$  production cross section and the Higgs decay branching fraction (blue lines), and using a parametrisation that includes both linear and quadratic terms into account (orange lines). Observed results are drawn in thick solid lines, thin dashed lines indicate expected results. The 68% and 95% CL lines are also indicated.

$c_{Hu}$ , and  $c_{Hd}$  Wilson coefficients. The  $c_{EC}$  and  $c_{ED}$  combinations have a larger impact from the  $c_{HW}$  and  $c_{HWB}$  coefficients, respectively, with a non-negligible sensitivity to  $c_{Hq}^{(1)}$ . The impact of the variations corresponding to the measurement of each eigenvector combination on the expected cross-sections in the reduced STXS measurement bins is shown in Fig. 6. The results of the simultaneous fit are given in Table 9. No significant deviation from their expected SM value is observed.

## 10. Conclusion

Measurements of a Higgs boson decaying into a  $b$ -quark pair, produced in association with a vector boson at high transverse momentum subsequently decaying into a pair of leptons (electrons, muons and/or neutrinos) are performed. The results are based on the Run 2 dataset of  $pp$  collision data collected at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV by the ATLAS detector at the LHC, corresponding to an inte-

grated luminosity of  $139 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ . These are the most precise measurements currently available in the high transverse momentum regime for this process. The Higgs boson is reconstructed from a single large- $R$  jet to enhance the sensitivity in the high- $p_T$  regime.

The significance of the measurement of the SM  $VH$  process is 2.1 standard deviations. The expected significance corresponding to the production of the SM  $VH$  process is 2.7 standard deviations. For the diboson process ( $VZ$ ), which is measured simultaneously, the observed significance is 5.4 standard deviations, in good agreement with the expected diboson significance of 5.7 standard deviations. The cross-sections for the associated production of a Higgs boson decaying into a  $b$ -quark pair with an electroweak gauge boson  $W$  or  $Z$  decaying into leptons are measured in the simplified template cross-section framework in two  $p_T^V$  regions:  $250 \text{ GeV} < p_T^V < 400 \text{ GeV}$  and  $p_T^V \geq 400 \text{ GeV}$ . All results are in agreement with SM predictions and are interpreted in terms of constraints on anomalous couplings in the framework of a Standard Model effective field theory.

### Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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## Appendix A

This appendix contains the negative log-likelihood profile for the individual fits of the Wilson coefficients (Fig. 7). In each fit all coefficients other than the one individually varied are set to zero. Each fit is performed twice, once with and once without the quadratic terms taken into account, as described in Section 9.

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C. Di Donato<sup>70a,70b</sup>, A. Di Girolamo<sup>36</sup>, G. Di Gregorio<sup>72a,72b</sup>, B. Di Micco<sup>75a,75b</sup>, R. Di Nardo<sup>75a,75b</sup>,  
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