Search for the Standard Model Higgs boson in the decay channel $H \rightarrow ZZ^{(*)} \rightarrow 4\ell$ with 4.8 fb$^{-1}$ of $pp$ collision data at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV with ATLAS\textsuperscript{®}

ATLAS Collaboration

\section{Introduction}

The search for the Standard Model (SM) Higgs boson [1–3] is one of the most important aspects of the CERN Large Hadron Collider (LHC) physics program. Direct searches performed at the CERN Large Electron–Positron Collider (LEP) excluded at 95% confidence level (CL) the production of a SM Higgs boson with mass, $m_H$, less than 114.4 GeV [4]. The searches at the Fermilab Tevatron $p\bar{p}$ collider have excluded at 95% CL the region 116 < $m_H$ < 177 GeV [5]. At the LHC, results from data collected in 2010 extended the search in the region 200 < $m_H$ < 600 GeV by excluding a Higgs boson with cross section larger than 5–20 times the SM prediction [6,7]. In ATLAS these results were extended further using the first 1.04–2.28 fb$^{-1}$ of data recorded in 2011 [8–13].

In particular, the $H \rightarrow WW^{(*)} \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-\nu\bar{\nu}$ search [13] excluded at 95% CL the region 145 < $m_H$ < 206 GeV.

The search for the SM Higgs boson through the decay $H \rightarrow ZZ^{(*)} \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-\ell'^+\ell'^-$, where $\ell, \ell' = e$ or $\mu$, provides good sensitivity over a wide mass range. Previous results from ATLAS in this channel [9] excluded three mass regions between 191 GeV and 224 GeV at 95% CL with a 2.1 fb$^{-1}$ data sample. This Letter presents an update of this search in the mass range from 110 GeV to 600 GeV, superseding Ref. [9]. Three distinct final states, $\mu^+\mu^-\mu^+\mu^-$ (4$\mu$), $e^+\mu^-\mu^+\mu^-$ (2$e2\mu$), and $e^+e^-e^+e^-$ (4$e$), are selected. The largest background to this search comes from continuum ($Z^{(*)}/\gamma^*)$(Z$^{(*)}/\gamma^*)$ production, referred to as ZZ$^{(*)}$ hereafter.

For $m_H < 180$ GeV, there are also important background contributions from Z+jets and t$\bar{t}$ production, where the additional charged lepton candidates arise either from decays of hadrons with $b$- or c-quark content or from misidentification of jets.

The $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV $pp$ collision data were recorded during 2011 with the ATLAS detector at the LHC and correspond to an integrated luminosity of 4.8 fb$^{-1}$ [14,15]. This analysis is using more than twice the integrated luminosity of Ref. [9], including the data therein. The electron identification efficiency has been improved; furthermore the electron tracks have been refitted using a Gaussian-sum filter [16], which corrects for energy losses due to bremsstrahlung. The analysis also benefits from recent significant improvements in the alignment of the inner detector and the muon spectrometer.

\section{The ATLAS detector}

The ATLAS detector [17] is a multi-purpose particle physics detector with forward–backward symmetric cylindrical geometry.\textsuperscript{1} The inner tracking detector (ID) [18] covers $|\eta| < 2.5$ and consists of a silicon pixel detector, a silicon microstrip detector, and a transition radiation tracker. The ID is surrounded by a thin superconducting solenoid providing a 2 T axial magnetic field. A high-granularity lead/liquid-argon (LAr) sampling calorimeter surrounds the ID.

\textsuperscript{1} ATLAS uses a right-handed coordinate system with its origin at the nominal interaction point. The z-axis is along the beam pipe, the x-axis points towards the centre of the LHC ring and the y-axis points upward. Cylindrical coordinates (r, $\phi$) are used in the transverse plane, $\phi$ being the azimuthal angle around the beam pipe. The pseudorapidity $\eta$ is defined as $\eta = -\ln\tanh(\theta/2)$ where $\theta$ is the polar angle.
calorimeter [19] measures the energy and the position of electromagnetic showers with \(|y| < 3.2\). LAr sampling calorimeters are also used to measure hadronic showers in the end-cap \((1.5 < |y| < 3.2)\) and forward \((3.1 < |y| < 4.9)\) regions, while an iron/scintillator tile calorimeter [20] measures hadronic showers in the central region \((|y| < 1.7)\). The muon spectrometer (MS) [21] surrounds the calorimeters and consists of three large superconducting air-core toroids, each with eight coils, a system of precision tracking chambers \((|y| < 2.7)\), and fast tracking chambers for triggering. A three-level trigger system [22] selects events to be recorded for offline analysis.

### 3. Data and simulation samples

The data are subjected to quality requirements: events recorded during periods when the relevant detector components were not operating normally are rejected. The resulting integrated luminosity is 4.8 fb\(^{-1}\), 4.8 fb\(^{-1}\) and 4.9 fb\(^{-1}\) for the \(4\mu\), \(2e2\mu\) and \(4e\) final states, respectively.

The \(H \rightarrow ZZ^{(*)} \rightarrow 4\ell\) signal is modelled using the POWHEG Monte Carlo (MC) event generator [23,24], which calculates separately the gluon–gluon and vector-boson fusion production mechanisms with matrix elements up to next-to-leading order (NLO). The Higgs boson transverse momentum \((p_T)\) spectrum in the gluon fusion process is reweighted to match the calculation of Ref. [25], which includes quantum chromodynamics (QCD) corrections up to \(\alpha_s\) and QCD soft-gluon resummations up to next-to-next-to-leading logarithm (NNLL). POWHEG is interfaced to PYTHIA [26] for showering and hadronization, which in turn is interfaced to PHOTOS [27] for quantum electrodynamics (QED) radiative corrections in the final state and to TAUOLA [28,29] for the simulation of \(r\) lepton decays. PYTHIA is used to simulate the production of a Higgs boson in association with a \(W\) or a \(Z\) boson.

The Higgs boson production cross sections and decay branching ratios [30–33], as well as their uncertainties, are taken from Refs. [34,35]. The cross sections for the gluon fusion process have been calculated at next-to-leading order (NLO) in QCD [36–38], and then at next-to-next-to-leading order (NNLO) [39–41]. In addition, QCD soft-gluon resummations up to NNLL are applied for the gluon fusion process [42]. The NLO electroweak (EW) corrections are applied [43,44]. These results are compiled in Refs. [45–47] assuming factorization between QCD and EW corrections. The cross sections for the vector-boson fusion process are calculated with full NLO QCD and EW corrections [48–50], and approximate NNLO QCD corrections are available [51]. The associated productions with a \(W\) or \(Z\) boson are calculated at NLO [52] and at NNLO [53] in QCD, and NLO EW radiative corrections [54] are applied. The uncertainty in the production cross section due to the choice of QCD scale is \(\pm 12\%\) for the gluon fusion process, \(\pm 11\%\) for the vector-boson fusion, associated \(WH\) production, and associated \(ZH\) production processes [34]. The uncertainty in the production cross section due to the parton distribution function (PDF) and \(\alpha_s\) is \(\pm 8\%\) for gluon-initiated process and \(\pm 4\%\) for quark-initiated processes [55–59]. The Higgs boson decay branching ratio to the four-lepton final state is predicted by PROPHET [31,32], which includes the complete NLO QCD + EW corrections, interference effects between identical final-state fermions, and leading two-loop heavy Higgs boson corrections to the four-fermion width. Table 1 gives the production cross sections and branching ratios for \(H \rightarrow ZZ^{(*)} \rightarrow 4\ell\) for several Higgs boson masses.

The cross section calculations do not take into account the width of the Higgs boson, which is implemented through a relativistic Breit–Wigner line shape applied at the event-generator level. It has been suggested [35,60–62] that effects related to off-shell Higgs boson production and interference with other SM processes may become sizeable for the highest masses \((m_H > 400\text{ GeV})\) considered in this search. In the absence of a full calculation, a conservative estimate of the possible size of such effects is included as a signal normalization systematic uncertainty following a parameterization as a function of \(m_H\): \(150\%\times m_H^{3/2}\) [TeV], for \(m_H > 300\text{ GeV}\) [35].

The \(ZZ^{(*)}\) continuum background is modelled using PYTHIA. The MCFM [63,64] prediction, including both quark–antiquark annihilation and gluon fusion at QCD NLO, is used for the inclusive total cross section and the shape of the invariant mass of the \(ZZ^{(*)}\) system \((m_{ZZ^{(*)}})\). The QCD scale uncertainty has a \(\pm 5\%\) effect on the expected \(ZZ^{(*)}\) background, and the effect due to the PDF and \(\alpha_s\) uncertainties is \(\pm 4\%\) \((\pm 8\%\)) for quark-initiated \((\text{gluon-initiated})\) processes. An additional theoretical uncertainty of \(\pm 10\%\) on the inclusive \(ZZ^{(*)}\) cross section is conservatively included due to the missing higher-order QCD corrections for the gluon-initiated process, and a correlated uncertainty on the predicted \(m_{ZZ^{(*)}}\) spectrum is estimated by varying the gluon-initiated contribution by \(100\%\) [65].

The \(Z\) + jets production is modelled using ALPGEN [66] and is divided into two sources: \(Z +\) light jets – which includes \(Z\)c\(\bar{c}\) in the massless c-quark approximation and \(Z b\bar{b}\) from parton showers – and \(Z b\bar{b}\) using matrix-element calculations that take into account the b-quark mass. The MLM [67] matching scheme is used to remove any double counting of identical jets produced via the matrix-element calculation and the parton shower, but this scheme is not implemented for b-jets. Therefore, \(b\bar{b}\) pairs with separation \(\Delta R \sim \sqrt{(\Delta \phi)^2 + (\Delta \eta)^2} > 0.4\) between the b-quarks are taken from the matrix-element calculation, whereas for \(\Delta R < 0.4\) the parton-shower \(b\bar{b}\) pairs are used. In this search the \(Z + \) jets background is normalized using control samples from data. For comparisons with simulation, the QCD NNLO EWZ [68,69] and MCFM cross section calculations are used for inclusive Z boson and Zbb production, respectively. The \(\tau\) + jets background is modelled using M@NLO [70] and is normalized to the approximate NNLO cross section calculated using HATHOR [71]. The effect of the QCD scale uncertainty on the cross section is \(\pm 5\%\), while the effect of PDF and \(\alpha_s\) uncertainties is \(\pm 7\%.\) Both ALPGEN and M@NLO are interfaced to HERWIG [72] for parton shower hadronization and to JIMMY [73] for the underlying event simulation.

### Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(m_H) (GeV)</th>
<th>(\sigma(gg \rightarrow H)) (pb)</th>
<th>(\sigma(qq' \rightarrow Hq')) (pb)</th>
<th>(\sigma(qq \rightarrow WH)) (pb)</th>
<th>(\sigma(qq \rightarrow ZH)) (pb)</th>
<th>(\text{BR}(H \rightarrow ZZ^{(*)} \rightarrow 4\ell)) (10^{-3})</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>1.41 ± 0.02</td>
<td>1.154 ± 0.002</td>
<td>0.501 ± 0.020</td>
<td>0.278 ± 0.014</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>10.52 ± 0.01</td>
<td>0.962 ± 0.028</td>
<td>0.300 ± 0.012</td>
<td>0.171 ± 0.009</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>5.2 ± 0.05</td>
<td>0.637 ± 0.022</td>
<td>0.101 ± 0.005</td>
<td>0.061 ± 0.004</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>2.0 ± 0.3</td>
<td>0.162 ± 0.016</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600</td>
<td>0.33 ± 0.06</td>
<td>0.058 ± 0.005</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Generated events are fully simulated using the ATLAS detector simulation [74] within the GEANT4 framework [75]. Additional pp interactions in the same and nearby bunch crossings (pile-up) are included in the simulation. The MC samples are reweighted to reproduce the observed distribution of the mean number of interactions per bunch crossing in the data.

### 4. Lepton identification and event selection

The data considered in this analysis are selected using single-lepton or di-lepton triggers. For the single-muon trigger the \( p_T \) threshold is 18 GeV, while for the single-electron trigger the transverse energy, \( E_T \), threshold is 20–22 GeV depending on the LHC instantaneous luminosity. For the di-muon and di-electron triggers the thresholds are \( p_T = 10 \) GeV for each of the muons, and \( E_T = 12 \) GeV for each of the electrons, respectively.

Electron candidates consist of clusters of energy deposited in the electromagnetic calorimeter that are associated to ID tracks. Electron tracks have been refitted using a Gaussian-sum filter. The electron candidates must satisfy a set of identification criteria [76] that require the shower profiles to be consistent with those expected for electromagnetic showers and a well-reconstructed ID track pointing to the corresponding cluster. The electron transverse momentum is computed from the cluster energy and the track direction at the interaction point.

Muon candidates are reconstructed by matching ID tracks with either complete or partial tracks reconstructed in the MS [77]. If a complete track is present, the two independent momentum measurements are combined; otherwise the momentum is measured using the ID information only. To reject cosmic rays, muon tracks are required to have a transverse impact parameter, defined as the distance of closest approach of a track to the interaction point, of less than 1 mm. The primary vertex is defined as the reconstructed vertex with at least three associated tracks among the reconstructed vertices with at least three associated tracks.

This analysis searches for Higgs boson candidates by selecting two same-flavour, opposite-sign lepton pairs in an event. The impact parameter of the leptons along the beam axis is required to be within 10 mm of the primary vertex. Each lepton must satisfy \( p_T > 7 \) GeV and be measured in the pseudorapidity range \( |\eta| < 2.47 \) for electrons and \( |\eta| < 2.7 \) for muons. At least two leptons in the quadruplet must have \( p_T > 20 \) GeV. The leptons are required to be separated from each other by \( \Delta R > 0.1 \). The invariant mass of the same-flavour and opposite-sign lepton pair closest to the Z boson mass (\( m_2 \)) is denoted by \( m_{12} \) and \( m_2 = m_{12} < 15 \) GeV is required. The invariant mass of the remaining same-flavour and opposite-sign lepton pair, \( m_{34} \), is required to be in the range \( m_{34} < 115 \) GeV, where \( m_{34} \) depends on the reconstructed four-lepton invariant mass, \( m_4 \), as shown in Table 2.

### 5. Background estimation

The expected background yield and its composition is estimated using MC simulation normalized to the theoretical cross section for \( ZZ^{(*)} \) production and by data-driven methods for the \( Z + \text{jets} \) and \( t\bar{t} \) processes.

A control sample consisting of \( Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^- \) candidates with an additional loosely selected - no isolation or impact parameter requirements - same-flavour lepton pair is used to study the contributions of \( Zb\bar{b} \) and \( Z + \text{light jets} \). The \( Zb\bar{b} \) background dominates the \( Z + \mu\mu \) sample, and the \( Z + \text{light jets} \) background dominates in the \( Z + ee \) sample. The heavy flavour contribution in the \( Z + \mu\mu \) control sample is estimated by subtracting from the data the light jet component. The latter is obtained in a data-driven manner by using measurements of the rate at which other particles are misidentified as muons. The \( Z + \text{light jets} \) contribution in the \( Z + ee \) final state is estimated by extrapolation, using MC simulation, from a background-dominated region defined by inverting the electron identification requirement on the transverse shower shape of the electromagnetic energy deposit. These data-driven backgrounds are extrapolated to the signal region by applying the efficiencies found in MC simulation, and verified using data, for the isolation and impact parameter significance requirements.

The normalization of the \( t\bar{t} \) background, which also contributes substantially in the \( Z + \mu\mu \) final state, is verified using a control region of events containing an opposite-sign electron–muon pair consistent with the Z boson mass and two additional same-flavour leptons.

Fig. 2 displays the invariant masses of lepton pairs in events with a Z boson candidate and an additional same-flavour lepton pair, selected by following the kinematic requirements of the analysis, and by applying isolation requirements to the first lepton pair only. The events are divided according to the flavour of the additional lepton pair into \( Z + \mu\mu \) and \( Z + ee \) samples, where \( Z \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-/e^+e^- \). In Figs. 2(a) and 2(c) the \( m_{12} \) and \( m_{34} \) distribu-
ions are presented for $Z + \mu\mu$ events, while in Figs. 2(b) and 2(d) the corresponding distributions are presented for $Z + ee$ events. The shapes and normalizations of the backgrounds discussed earlier are in good agreement with data; this is observed both for large values of $m_{34}$, where the $ZZ^\ast$ background dominates, and for low $m_{34}$ values.

6. Systematic uncertainties

Uncertainties in lepton reconstruction and identification efficiency, and on the momentum resolution and scale, are determined using samples of $W$, $Z$ and $J/\psi$ decays. The muon efficiency uncertainty results in a relative acceptance uncertainty in the signal and the $ZZ^\ast$ background which is uniform over the mass range of interest, and amounts to 0.22% (0.16%) for the $4\mu$ ($2e2\mu$) channel. The uncertainty in the electron efficiency results in a relative acceptance uncertainty of 2.3% (1.6%) for the $4\mu$ ($2e2\mu$) channel at $m_{4\ell} = 600$ GeV and reaches 8.0% (4.1%) at $m_{4\ell} = 110$ GeV. The effects of muon momentum resolution and scale uncertainties are found to be negligible. The energy resolution uncertainty for electrons is negligible, while the electron energy scale uncertainty results in a relative acceptance uncertainty of 2.3% (1.6%) for the $4\mu$ ($2e2\mu$) channel.

The selection efficiencies of the isolation and impact parameter requirements are studied using data for both isolated and non-isolated leptons. Isolated leptons are obtained from $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$ decays, while additional leptons reconstructed in events with $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$ decays constitute the sample of non-isolated leptons. Additional checks are performed with non-isolated leptons from semileptonic $b$- and $c$-quark decays in a heavy-flavour enriched di-jet sample. Good agreement is observed between data and simulation and the systematic uncertainty is, in general, estimated to be small with respect to the other systematic uncertainties. An exception is found in the case of isolated electrons with $E_T < 15$ GeV, where due to the small number of $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ events and the substantial QCD backgrounds an additional uncertainty of 5% is added.

An additional uncertainty in the signal selection efficiency is added due to the modelling of the signal kinematics. This is evaluated by varying the Higgs boson $p_T$ spectrum in the gluon fusion process according to the PDF and QCD scale uncertainties.

The $Z + light\; jets$ and $Zb\bar{b}$ backgrounds are evaluated using data. Systematic uncertainties of 45% and 40%, respectively, are assigned to their normalization to account for the statistical uncertainty in the yield of the control sample, the uncertainty in the composition of the control sample, and the uncertainty in the MC-based extrapolation to the signal region.

The overall uncertainty in the integrated luminosity for the complete 2011 dataset is 3.9%, based on the calibration described in Refs. [14,15] including an additional uncertainty for the extrapolation to the later data-taking period with higher instantaneous luminosity.

7. Results

In total, 71 candidate events are selected by the analysis: 24 $4\mu$, 30 $2e2\mu$, and 17 $4e$ events. From the background processes, 62 $\pm$ 9 events are expected: 18.6 $\pm$ 2.8 $4\mu$, 29.7 $\pm$ 4.5 $2e2\mu$, and 13.4 $\pm$ 2.0 $4e$. In Table 3, the number of events observed in each final state is summarized and compared to the expected backgrounds, separately for $m_{4\ell} < 180$ GeV and $m_{4\ell} \geq 180$ GeV, and to the expected signal for various $m_H$ hypotheses. The $m_{12}$ and $m_{34}$ mass spectra are shown in Fig. 3. The expected $m_{4\ell}$ distributions for the total background and several signal hypotheses are compared to the data in Fig. 4.

Upper limits are set on the Higgs boson production cross section at 95% CL, using the CL$_S$ modified frequentist formalism [78] with the profile likelihood ratio test statistic [79]. The test statistic is evaluated with a binned maximum-likelihood fit of signal and background models to the observed $m_{4\ell}$ distribution. Fig. 5 shows the observed and expected 95% CL cross section upper limits, calculated using ensembles of simulated pseudo-experiments, as a function of $m_H$. The SM Higgs boson is excluded at 95% CL in the mass ranges 134–156 GeV, 182–233 GeV, 256–265 GeV and 268–415 GeV. The expected exclusion ranges are 136–157 GeV and 184–400 GeV.

The significance of an excess is given by the probability, $p_s$, that a background-only experiment is more signal-like than that observed. In Fig. 6 the $p_s$-values, calculated using an ensemble of simulated pseudo-experiments, are given as a function of $m_H$ for the full mass range of the analysis. The most significant upward deviations from the background-only hypothesis are observed for
Fig. 2. Invariant mass distributions of the lepton pairs in the control sample defined by a $Z$ boson candidate and an additional same-flavour lepton pair. The sample is divided according to the flavour of the additional lepton pair. In (a) the $m_{12}$ and in (c) the $m_{34}$ distributions are presented for $Z(\rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-/e^+e^-) + \mu\mu$ events. In (b) the $m_{12}$ and in (d) the $m_{34}$ distributions are presented for $Z(\rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-/e^+e^-) + ee$ events. The kinematic selections of the analysis are applied. Isolation requirements are applied to the first lepton pair only.

Table 3
The expected numbers of background events, with their systematic uncertainty, separated into “Low-$m_{4\ell}$” ($m_{4\ell} < 180$ GeV) and “High-$m_{4\ell}$” ($m_{4\ell} \geq 180$ GeV) regions, compared to the observed numbers of events. The expectations for a Higgs boson signal for five different $m_H$ values are also given.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$m_H$ (GeV)</th>
<th>Low-$m_{4\ell}$</th>
<th>High-$m_{4\ell}$</th>
<th>$m_H$ (GeV)</th>
<th>Low-$m_{4\ell}$</th>
<th>High-$m_{4\ell}$</th>
<th>$m_H$ (GeV)</th>
<th>Low-$m_{4\ell}$</th>
<th>High-$m_{4\ell}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$125$ GeV</td>
<td>$2.1 \pm 0.3$</td>
<td>$16.3 \pm 2.4$</td>
<td>$25.2 \pm 3.8$</td>
<td>$1.2 \pm 0.3$</td>
<td>$10.4 \pm 1.5$</td>
<td>$2.1 \pm 0.4$</td>
<td>$25.4 \pm 3.8$</td>
<td>$2.8 \pm 0.8$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150$ GeV</td>
<td>$2.1 \pm 0.7$</td>
<td>$16.3 \pm 2.4$</td>
<td>$2.9 \pm 0.4$</td>
<td>$1.6 \pm 0.7$</td>
<td>$0.14 \pm 0.08$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200$ GeV</td>
<td>$2.1 \pm 0.3$</td>
<td>$16.3 \pm 2.4$</td>
<td>$3.3 \pm 0.5$</td>
<td>$1.4 \pm 0.21$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500$ GeV</td>
<td>$2.1 \pm 0.4$</td>
<td>$16.3 \pm 2.4$</td>
<td>$3.3 \pm 0.5$</td>
<td>$1.4 \pm 0.21$</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

$m_H = 125$ GeV with a local $p_0$ of 1.6% (2.1 standard deviations), $m_H = 244$ GeV with a local $p_0$ of 1.3% (2.2 standard deviations) and $m_H = 500$ GeV with a local $p_0$ of 1.8% (2.1 standard deviations). The median expected local $p_0$ in the presence of a SM Higgs boson are 10.6% (1.3 standard deviations), 0.14% (3.0 standard deviations) and 7.1% (15 standard deviations) for $m_H = 125$ GeV, 244 GeV and 500 GeV, respectively. An alternative calculation, using the asymptotic approximation of Ref. [79], yielded compatible results – within 0.2 standard deviations – in the entire mass range.
8. Summary

A search for the SM Higgs boson in the decay channel $H \rightarrow ZZ^{(*)} \rightarrow 4\ell$ based on 4.8 fb$^{-1}$ of data recorded by the ATLAS detector at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV during the 2011 run has been presented. The SM Higgs boson is excluded at 95% CL in the mass ranges 134–156 GeV, 182–233 GeV, 256–265 GeV and 268–415 GeV. The largest upward deviations from the background-only hypothesis are observed for $m_H = 125$ GeV, 244 GeV and 500 GeV with local significances of 2.1, 2.2 and 2.1 standard deviations, respectively. Once the look-elsewhere effect is considered, none of these excesses are significant.

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The standard model Higgs boson production cross section as a function of m_{H} [GeV].

Fig. 5. The expected (dashed) and observed (full line) 95% CL upper limits on the standard model Higgs boson production cross section as a function of m_{H}, divided by the expected SM Higgs boson cross section. The dark (green) and light (yellow) bands indicate the expected limits with ±1σ and ±2σ fluctuations, respectively. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this Letter.)

Fig. 6. The observed local p_{0}, the probability that the background fluctuates to the observed number of events or higher, is shown as the solid line. The two horizontal dashed lines indicate the p_{0} values corresponding to local significances of 2σ and 3σ.

Italy; NL-T1 (Netherlands), PIC (Spain), ASGC (Taiwan), RAL (UK) and BNL (USA) and in the Tier-2 facilities worldwide.

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References


107 Badger Institute of Nuclear Physics, SB RAS, Novosibirsk, Russia
108 Department of Physics, New York University, New York, NY, United States
109 Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, United States
110 Faculty of Science, Okayama University, Okayama, Japan
111 Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, United States
112 Department of Physics, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, United States
113 Palacký University, KCFPM, Olomouc, Czech Republic
114 Center for High Energy Physics, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, United States
115 LAL, Univ. Paris-Sud and CNRS/IN2P3, Orsay, France
116 Graduate School of Science, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan
117 Department of Physics, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
118 Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom
119 (a) INFN Sezione di Pavia; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica Nucleare e Teorica, Università di Pavia, Pavia, Italy
120 Department of Physics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, United States
121 Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina, Russia
122 (a) INFN Sezione di Pisa; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica E. Fermi, Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy
123 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, United States
124 (a) Laboratorio de Instrumentación e Física Experimental de Partículas – LIP, Lisboa, Portugal; (b) Departamento de Fisica Teorica y del Cosmos and CAEPE, Universidad de Granada, Granada, Spain
125 Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic
126 Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University in Prague, Prague, Czech Republic
127 Czech Technical University in Prague, Prague, Czech Republic
128 State Research Center Institute for High Energy Physics, Protvino, Russia
129 Particle Physics Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
130 Physics Department, University of Regina, Regina, SK, Canada
131 Hiroshima University, Higashi-Hiroshima, Japan
132 (a) INFN Sezione di Roma I; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università La Sapienza, Roma, Italy
133 (a) INFN Sezione di Roma Tor Vergata; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy
134 (a) INFN Sezione di Roma Tre; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università Roma Tre, Roma, Italy
135 (a) Facultad de Ciencias de Al Chock, Rihau Université de the Hautes Energies – Université Hassan II, Casablanca; (b) Centre National de l’Énergie des Sciences Techniques Nucléaires, Rabat; (c) Facultés des Sciences Semlalia, Université Cadi Ayyad, LPHEA-Marrakech; (d) Facultés des Sciences, Université Mohamed Premier and LPTPM, Oujda; (e) Facultés des Sciences, Université Mohammed V, Rabat, Morocco
136 DSM/IRFU (Institut de Recherches sur les Lois Fondamentales de l’Univers), CEA Saclay (Commissariat a l’Energie Atomique), Gif-sur-Yvette, France
137 Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA, United States
138 Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, United States
139 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom
140 Department of Physics, Shinshu University, Nagano, Japan
141 Fachbereich Physik, Universität Siegen, Siegen, Germany
142 Department of Physics, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada
143 SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Stanford, CA, United States
144 (a) Faculty of Mathematics, Physics & Informatics, Comenius University, Bratislava; (b) Department of Subnuclear Physics, Institute of Experimental Physics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Kosice, Slovak Republic
145 (a) Department of Physics, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg; (b) School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
146 Department of Physics, Stockholm University; (b) The Okin Klein Centre, Stockholm, Sweden
147 Physics Department, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden
148 Departments of Physics & Astronomy and Chemistry, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, United States
149 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom
150 School of Physics, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
151 Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
152 Department of Physics, Technion – Israel Inst. of Technology, Haifa, Israel
153 Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Physics and Astronomy, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel
154 Department of Physics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece
155 Interuniversity Center for Elementary Particle Physics and Department of Physics, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
156 Graduate School of Science and Technology, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Tokyo, Japan
157 Department of Physics, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan
158 Department of Physics, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada
159 (a) TRIUMF, Vancouver, BC; (b) Department of Physics and Astronomy, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada
160 Institute of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Tsukuba, 1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8571, Japan
161 Science and Technology Center, Tsufs University, Medford, MA, United States
162 Centro de Investigaciones, Universidad Antonio Narino, Bogota, Colombia
163 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of California Irvine, Irvine, CA, United States
164 (a) INFN Gruppo Collegato di Udine; (b) ICTP, Trieste; (c) Dipartimento di Chimica, Fisica e Ambiente, Università di Udine, Udine, Italy
165 Department of Physics, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, United States
166 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden
167 Instituto de Física Corpuscular (IFIC) and Departamento de Física Atómica, Molecular y Nuclear and Departamento de Ingeniería Electrónica and Instituto de Microelectrónica de Barcelona (IMB-CNM), University of Valencia and CSIC, Valencia, Spain
168 Department of Physics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada
169 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada
170 Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
171 Department of Particle Physics, The Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel
172 Department of Physics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, United States
173 Fachhochschule für Physik und Astronomie, Julius-Maximilians-Universität, Würzburg, Germany
174 Fachbereich C Physik, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany
175 Department of Physics, Yale University, New Haven, CT, United States
176 Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia
177 Domaine scientifique de la Doua, Centre de Calcul CNRS/IN2P3, Villeurbanne Cedex, France

a Also at Laboratorio de Instrumentacion e Fisica Experimental de Particulas – LIP, Lisboa, Portugal.
b Also at Faculdade de Ciencias and CFNU, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal.
Also at Particle Physics Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom.

Also at TRIUMF, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Also at Department of Physics, California State University, Fresno, CA, United States.

Also at Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk, Russia.

Also at Fermilab, Batavia, IL, United States.

Also at Department of Physics, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal.

Also at Università di Napoli Parthenope, Napoli, Italy.

Also at Institute of Particle Physics (IPP), Canada.

Also at Department of Physics, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey.

Also at Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA, United States.

Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London, United Kingdom.

Also at Group of Particle Physics, University of Montreal, Montreal, QC, Canada.

Also at Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan.

Also at Institut für Experimentalphysik, Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany.

Also at Manhattan College, New York, NY, United States.

Also at School of Physics, Shandong University, Shandong, China.

Also at CPPM, Aix-Marseille Université and CNRS/IN2P3, Marseille, France.

Also at School of Physics and Engineering, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China.

Also at Academia Sinica Grid Computing, Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.

Also at Section de Physique, Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland.

Also at Departamento de Física, Universidade de Minho, Braga, Portugal.

Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, United States.

Also at Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary.

Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA, United States.

Also at LAL, Univ. Paris-Sud and CNRS/IN2P3, Orsay, France.

Also at High Energy Physics Group, Shandong University, Shandong, China.

Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom.

Also at Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom.

Also at Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.

Also at Department of Physics, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, United States.

Also at DSM/IRFU (Institut de Recherches sur les Lois Fondamentales de l'Univers), CEA Saclay (Commissariat a l'Energie Atomique), Gif-sur-Yvette, France.

Also at Laboratoire de Physique Nucléaire et de Hautes Energies, UPMC and Université Paris-Diderot and CNRS/IN2P3, Paris, France.

* Deceased.