

Search for the Higgs boson produced with $Z \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-$ in $p\bar{p}$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV

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We present a search for the Higgs boson in the process $q\bar{q} \rightarrow ZH \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^- b\bar{b}$. The analysis uses an integrated luminosity of 1 fb^{-1} of $p\bar{p}$ collisions produced at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96 \text{ TeV}$ and accumulated by the upgraded Collider Detector at Fermilab (CDF II). We employ artificial neural networks both to correct jets mismeasured in the calorimeter, and to distinguish the signal kinematic distributions from those of the background. We see no evidence for Higgs boson production, and set 95% CL upper limits on $\sigma_{ZH} \cdot \mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})$, ranging from 1.5 pb to 1.2 pb for a Higgs mass (m_H) of 110 to 150 GeV/c^2 .

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*Deceased

†Deceased

The Higgs boson is the only particle predicted by the standard model (SM) of particle physics which has not yet been discovered. It is the physical manifestation of the mechanism which provides mass to fundamental particles [1, 2]. Direct searches have excluded the SM Higgs boson for masses $m_H < 114.4 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ at the 95% C.L. [3]. The Higgs boson mass is indirectly constrained from precise electroweak measurements to $m_H = 76_{-24}^{+33} \text{ GeV}/c^2$ [4]. Extensions to the SM, such as Ref. [5], predict a SM-like Higgs boson with 68% posterior probability to be between 115.4 and 120.4 GeV/c^2 . Only the Tevatron collider experiments are currently capable of extending the limits on a Higgs boson in these mass ranges.

This Letter presents the first CDF II search for a Higgs boson in the process $p\bar{p} \rightarrow Z^* \rightarrow ZH \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-b\bar{b}$, where ℓ is e or μ , with a dataset of 1 fb^{-1} , three times that of the previously reported analysis [6]. CDF and DØ have previously presented Higgs searches in other decay modes [7–12]. Prospects for combining these analyses for a discovery at the Tevatron are detailed in Ref. [13].

CDF II [14] is a general purpose detector. Its coordinate system and quantities used throughout this paper are defined in Ref. [15]. At its center is a cylindrical silicon detector which tracks charged particles from a radius of 1.35 to 29 cm for $|\eta| \lesssim 2$. Around this is a cylindrical wire drift chamber which tracks charged particles from 43 to 132 cm for $|\eta| \lesssim 1.3$. A superconducting solenoid surrounds the tracking volume providing a 1.4 T magnetic field for momenta measurements. Segmented electromagnetic and hadronic sampling calorimeters surrounding the solenoid measure energies of interacting particles with $|\eta| < 3.6$. A system of drift chambers and scintillation counters outside the calorimeters detect muon candidates for $|\eta| < 1.5$.

At the Tevatron the cross section for $q\bar{q} \rightarrow Z^* \rightarrow ZH$ for a Higgs boson with mass $m_H = 115 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ is 1.04 pb [16], and the branching ratio $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})$ is 73% [17]. To identify candidate ZH events, we first search for Z

candidates decaying to electron or muon pairs. The full selection criteria are described in Ref. [18]; the most salient features are described here. Our primary lepton selection consists of an electron with $E_T > 18 \text{ GeV}$ or a muon with $p_T > 18 \text{ GeV}/c$ within the central region $|\eta| < 1.0$. The requirements for the second electron are relaxed to $E_T > 10 \text{ GeV}$ in the central region, and maintained at 18 GeV for electrons with $1.0 < |\eta| < 2.4$. The second muon must have $p_T > 10 \text{ GeV}/c$. Energy deposits from leptons must be isolated from other energy deposits within $\Delta R < 0.4$.

From the measured lepton energies and momenta, we reconstruct the invariant mass of the Z candidate and require it to be between 76 and 106 GeV/c^2 . This requirement is 92% efficient for real ZH candidates, but helps remove non- Z backgrounds. We require oppositely charged leptons for muon pairs and for electron pairs when the second electron has $|\eta| < 1.0$ due to improved tracking efficiency in the central region.

Higgs candidates are then selected by requiring a jet with $E_T > 25 \text{ GeV}$ and an additional jet with $E_T > 15 \text{ GeV}$, both with $|\eta| < 2.0$. Jets are corrected for calorimeter response, multiple interactions, and energy loss in the uninstrumented detector regions [19]. To enhance signal significance, we implement an algorithm to identify the decay of a long-lived hadron containing a b quark by reconstructing a significantly displaced secondary vertex [20, 21]. We consider events in which one or both jets are “tagged” by this algorithm.

Backgrounds originating from W , Z , and $t\bar{t}$ production are determined using Monte Carlo (MC) calculations followed by a detailed simulation of the CDF II detector. We model the $Z + b\bar{b}$, $Z + c\bar{c}$ and $Z + \text{jets}$ processes by first producing the exact leading order multiparton final states with the ALPGEN [22] MC program, and then using HERWIG [23] to model the hadronization and parton showering. In addition we use an inclusive PYTHIA [24] Z MC sample to compare with the observed data and evaluate systematic uncertainties. We model ZZ , ZW , and $t\bar{t}$ background contributions using PYTHIA. “Fake lepton” background arise from jets being misidentified as leptons, and we estimate their contribution from observed data [25]. The contribution from false tags of light-quark ($u, d, \text{ or } s$) jets or gluon jets is evaluated from data by applying a parametrization of the false tagging rate to jets passing E_T and η requirements [20, 21]. The acceptance of $ZH \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-b\bar{b}$ events is $10.8 \pm 0.1 \%$ for $m_H = 120 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ which is evaluated using PYTHIA MC followed by a detailed CDF II simulation for Higgs masses from 110 to 150 GeV/c^2 .

Table I shows the expected background and signal contributions in 1 fb^{-1} of data compared to the number of observed after dividing events into those with only one b -tag (single-tagged), and those with exactly two b -tags (double-tagged). Electron decay modes account for 60% of the total expected and observed events.

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TABLE I: Expected and observed numbers of events in 1 fb^{-1} for electron and muon decay modes combined, compared to the expected ZH signal for $m_H 120 \text{ GeV}/c^2$.

Sample	Single-tagged	Double-tagged
$Z + b\bar{b}$	35.1 ± 14.6	6.3 ± 2.5
$Z + c\bar{c}$	21.8 ± 8.5	1.0 ± 0.4
$Z + q\bar{q}$	32.3 ± 5.5	1.0 ± 0.2
$t\bar{t}$	5.2 ± 1.0	2.8 ± 0.6
ZZ	4.0 ± 0.8	1.3 ± 0.3
ZW	1.2 ± 0.2	0.04 ± 0.01
non- Z	1.9 ± 1.4	0.2 ± 0.2
Expected	101.5 ± 32.0	12.7 ± 4.1
Observed	100	11
ZH	0.44	0.23

The Z +jets system is only expected to have \cancel{E}_T due to jet mismeasurement, either from the limited calorimeter resolution, uninstrumented regions, or from the semi-leptonic decay of the jets. Therefore, we correct the jet energies using an ANN implemented with MLPfit [26] which uses the missing transverse energy \cancel{E}_T vector projected onto those of the jets in order to determine individual scale factors for each jet. The result is a dijet mass resolution improvement from 18% to 11% [18] which improves ZH signal discrimination from the backgrounds.

To achieve a greater separation of signal and background we employ an additional ANN implemented with JETNET [27] to distinguish the kinematics of the signal from those of the backgrounds. Our ANN configuration is 8 input variables, 17 hidden nodes, and 2 output nodes, such that the output distribution is two-dimensional (2-D), with one axis separating ZH and $Z + b\bar{b}$, and the other axis separating $t\bar{t}$ and ZH . The variables chosen, in order of importance for minimizing the classification error, are the scalar sum of the transverse energies of the jets and leptons composing the Higgs and Z candidates (H_T), \cancel{E}_T , dijet mass, ΔR between first jet and Z candidate, ΔR between subleading jet and Z candidate, ΔR between leading and subleading jets, sphericity, which is a measure of how isotropic the leptons and jets are, and η of the subleading jet. The most important distributions are shown in Fig. 1.

Systematic uncertainties on both the normalization and the ANN shapes of signal and background are taken into account as parameters in the likelihood function. The uncertainty on the amount of $Z + b\bar{b}$ and $Z + c\bar{c}$ background is taken to be 40% [25] and for the $t\bar{t}$, WZ , and ZZ , it is 20%, including the uncertainties on the cross section and on the selection efficiencies of these processes and the top quark mass uncertainty. The uncertainty on the non- Z background is 50%. The uncertainty on

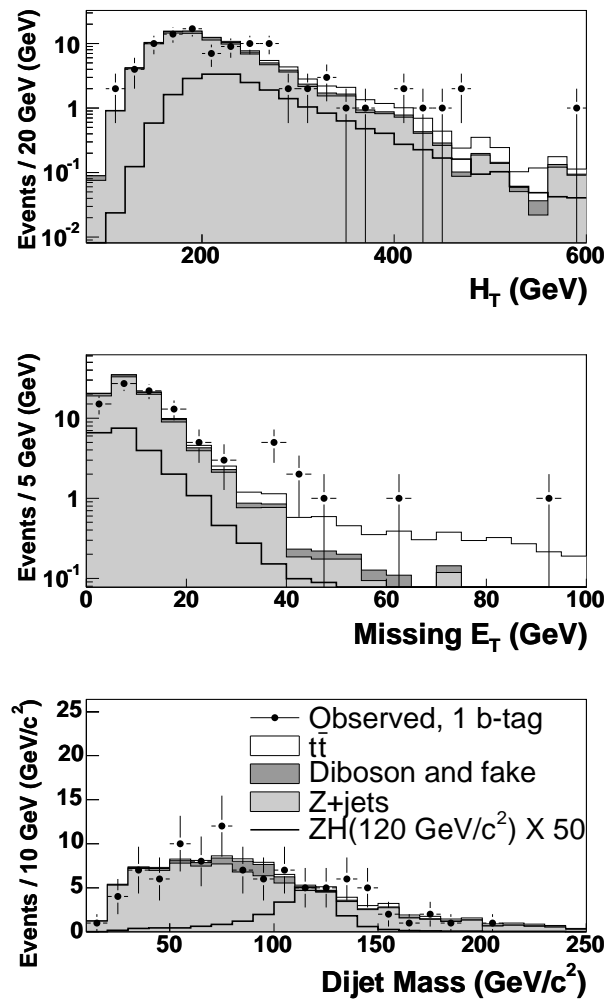


FIG. 1: Expected and observed distributions for the three most important inputs to the signal discriminating ANN shown after ANN jet corrections have been applied, for events with 1 b -tag.

the shape of the background is evaluated by comparing $Z + b\bar{b}$ events between PYTHIA and ALPGEN. The signal shape uncertainty is evaluated by varying the amount of initial and final state QCD radiation [28], by changing the parton distribution functions using the 40 eigenvectors from CTEQ6 [29], and by varying the jet energy scale within its uncertainties [19]. In addition both signal and background estimates are affected by the trigger efficiency uncertainty (1%), and the luminosity measurement uncertainty (6%) [30]. The b -tagging efficiency has an uncertainty of 8% for b -quark jets, 16% for c -quark jets and 13% for light quark jets. In double-tagged events, the uncertainties are 16%, 32% and 24%, respectively. These values are updates obtained from the procedure found in Ref. [20].

The projections of the two-dimensional ANN signal discriminant are shown in Fig. 2. We analyze the binned

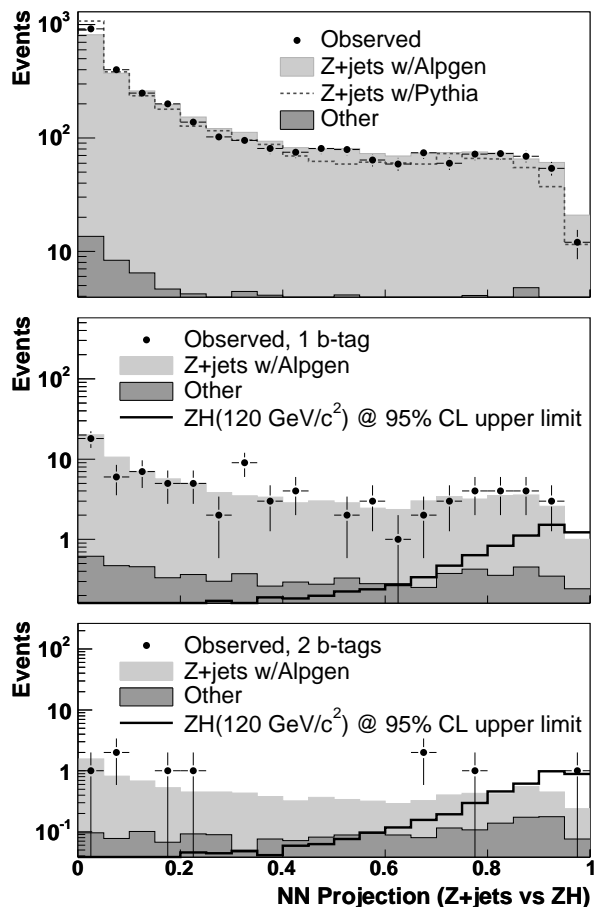


FIG. 2: Expected and observed distributions for the ANN discriminant projected onto the axis which discriminates Z +jets from ZH , after enriching signal by selecting events which have a $t\bar{t}$ vs. ZH ANN output < 0.25 . The top plot is the ANN discriminant before b -tagging requirements, demonstrating two models for the Z +jets background. The middle and lower plots are for single-tagged and double-tagged events, and are shown with a ZH signal at the level of the observed 95% C.L. upper limit for $m_H = 120 \text{ GeV}/c^2$.

2-D ANN discriminant distribution to test for a ZH signal in the presence of SM backgrounds. Including all the outlined uncertainties, the expected and observed upper limits at the 95% C.L. are shown in Table II. Expected limits are obtained by generating pseudo-experiments from the expected SM ANN shapes to calculate the median ZH contribution which could be excluded at the 95% level with no ZH signal present. Separate analysis of the double and single-tagged events increases signal sensitivity over a combined analysis by 20%. The dominant systematic uncertainty is the b -quark identification efficiency which accounts for 12% of the total 14% increase in the expected limit due to systematic uncertainties.

In summary, we have extended the limits for a Higgs boson decaying to $b\bar{b}$ produced in association with a Z boson. This is the first Tevatron run II search for a Higgs

TABLE II: Upper limits at the 95% C.L. on the cross-section of $\sigma(ZH) \times \mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})$. Also shown is the expected and observed ratio of the limit compared to the SM cross section.

m_H GeV/ c^2	Observed [pb]	Observed σ/σ_{SM}	Expected σ/σ_{SM}
110	1.5	15	15
115	1.4	17	16
120	1.2	19	19
130	1.2	30	28
140	1.2	65	55
150	1.2	160	140

boson to use a multivariate approach to separate signal and background kinematics, and results in a significant improvement in Higgs sensitivity over previous analyses in this decay mode [6]. The observed event kinematics and ANN signal discriminants show no significant excess above SM predictions. The improvement in limits using our approach of two ANNs is a factor of 1.8 compared to a fit of the uncorrected dijet mass distribution alone. This result is compared to other direct Higgs searches with the same integrated luminosity in Ref. [18].

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