

Electroweak restoration at the LHC and beyond: The Vh channelLi Huang^{1,*}, Samuel D. Lane,^{1,2,†} Ian M. Lewis^{1,‡} and Zhen Liu^{3,4,§}¹*Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045 USA*²*Department of Physics, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973 USA*³*Maryland Center for Fundamental Physics, Department of Physics, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, 20742 USA*⁴*School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55455 USA*

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The LHC is exploring electroweak (EW) physics at the scale EW symmetry is broken. As the LHC and new high energy colliders push our understanding of the Standard Model to ever-higher energies, it will be possible to probe not only the breaking of but also the restoration of EW symmetry. We propose to observe EW restoration in double EW boson production via the convergence of the Goldstone boson equivalence theorem. This convergence is most easily measured in the vector boson plus Higgs production, Vh , which is dominated by the longitudinal polarizations. We define EW restoration by carefully taking the limit of zero Higgs vacuum expectation value (v). EW restoration is then measured through the ratio of the p_T^h distributions between Vh production in the Standard Model and Goldstone boson plus Higgs production in the zero v theory, where p_T^h is the Higgs transverse momentum. As EW symmetry is restored, this ratio converges to one at high energy. We present a method to extract this ratio from collider data. With a full signal and background analysis, we demonstrate that the 14 TeV HL-LHC can confirm that this ratio converges to one to 40% precision while at the 27 TeV HE-LHC the precision will be 6%. We also investigate statistical tests to quantify the convergence at high energies. Our analysis provides a roadmap for how to stress test the Goldstone boson equivalence theorem and our understanding of spontaneously broken symmetries, in addition to confirming the restoration of EW symmetry.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevD.103.053007](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.103.053007)**I. INTRODUCTION**

With the discovery of a Standard Model-like Higgs boson [1,2], we entered a new era of probing the nature of electroweak (EW) symmetry breaking. Through the measurement of many EW and Higgs boson processes, the LHC is exploring the nature of a spontaneously broken symmetry at and above its breaking scale. As the LHC continues to gather data, it pushes these precision measurements and our understanding of EW symmetry breaking (EWSB) to ever-higher energies. These higher energies are very interesting for precision EW measurements [3–40], in particular at future high energy colliders. As we get further above the EW scale, EW particles are essentially massless, and new interesting SM physics begins to appear. For example, the

massive EW gauge bosons become partons and must be included in parton distribution functions as EW multiplets [41–46] and parton showers [26,47–49]. While these effects are intrinsically interesting and necessary to our understanding of the SM, they have also been shown to significantly impact searches for beyond the SM physics [50].

In this paper, we propose a new study to test one of the central behaviors of the SM at high energy: restoration of EW symmetry. We will propose a systematic analysis to observe this restoration at high energy colliders. Our study will open new analysis methods to stress test our understanding of the SM and the spontaneous breaking of EW theory. The main ingredient of our analysis is that as massive bosons become massless, their longitudinal modes can be replaced by the associated Goldstone bosons via the Goldstone boson equivalence theorem (GBET). Indeed, the GBET is a central ingredient to our understanding of the quantum field theory of spontaneously broken symmetries. Hence, our analysis provides a roadmap for how to empirically test the GBET, deepen our knowledge of spontaneously broken symmetries, and confirm the restoration of EW symmetry at high energies.

In the SM, restoration of EW symmetry is equivalent to taking the limit where the Higgs vacuum expectation value

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(vev), v , goes to zero.¹ In this limit the EW gauge bosons become massless. That is, only the transverse polarizations persist and the longitudinal polarizations are replaced by their associated Goldstone bosons, i.e., the GBET mentioned above. There is a long history [51–64] of trying to observe the GBET via longitudinal vector boson scattering. One of the interesting things about longitudinal vector boson scattering is that this process probes the quartic Goldstone boson coupling, which arises via the Higgs potential:

$$V(H) = -\mu^2 H^\dagger H + \lambda(H^\dagger H)^2$$

$$\text{where } H = \begin{pmatrix} G^+ \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(v + h + iG^0) \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

is the Higgs doublet, G^+ , G^0 are the Goldstone bosons, h is the Higgs boson, and $v = 246$ GeV is the Higgs vev. Hence, longitudinal vector boson scattering probes the shape of the Higgs potential and the source of EWSB. Additionally, this process violated perturbative unitarity without a Higgs boson [52–54]. However, with the observation of a light Higgs boson with SM-like couplings to EW gauge bosons [65–68], longitudinal vector boson scattering is effectively unitarized with the violation of perturbative unitarity pushed to multi-TeV energies [53,64,69–73], making it difficult to observe.

As the above makes clear, the observation of EW symmetry restoration and the GBET is simplest in processes that are dominated by longitudinally polarized gauge bosons. Such a process is Higgs production in association with an EW gauge boson: $q\bar{q}' \rightarrow Vh$ with $V = W^\pm, Z$ (Vh). In the GBET, the $q\bar{q}' \rightarrow Vh$ production is equivalent to $q\bar{q}' \rightarrow G^{\pm,0}h$ production (Gh) which arises from the Higgs kinetic term:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{kin}} = |D_\mu H|^2. \quad (2)$$

The kinetic term contains the trilinear interactions (a) $Z - G^0 - h$, $W^\pm - G^\mp - h$ and (b) $Z/\gamma - G^+ - G^-$, $W^\pm - G^\mp - G^0$. The interactions (a) contribute to the processes $q\bar{q} \rightarrow V_L h$, where the subscript L indicates a longitudinally polarized vector boson. The interactions (b) contribute to pair production of longitudinally polarized gauge bosons $q\bar{q} \rightarrow V_L V'_L$, where $V' = Z, W^\pm$. However, the pair production of gauge bosons $q\bar{q}' \rightarrow VV'$ is dominated by transverse polarizations to high energy [11,74,75]. For the Vh channel, the contribution from transversely polarized vector bosons is suppressed since a portion of the Higgs doublet already exists in the final state.

From this discussion, Higgs production in association with W^\pm or Z is a prime candidate to observe EW restoration. In this paper we present an analysis strategy to do precisely this. While this may seem straightforward, complications immediately arise when trying to observe

EW restoration at hadron colliders. Namely, the vector and Higgs bosons are intermediate states, and the collider observes their decay products. These decays occur at the EW scale and the GBET is not valid. This is clear by noting that while vector boson couplings to fermions are universal across generations, the Goldstone bosons couple like mass. Hence, their branching ratios are vastly different and it is necessary to unfold to the underlying two-to-two process.

As a proof of principle, we show that the convergence of the EW restoration can be observed in $q\bar{q}' \rightarrow Vh$ in the Higgs transverse momentum distribution at the 14 TeV high luminosity LHC (HL-LHC) and the proposed 27 TeV high energy LHC (HE-LHC). We will define a signal strength that is a ratio of the vector boson Vh and Goldstone boson Gh processes. In fact, numerically the signal strength is the same for both $W^\pm h$ and Zh production. At high Higgs transverse momentum, we show that it is possible to observe the convergence of this signal strength to one, indicating that EW symmetry is restored. We will also explore various test statistics to determine how well the GBET converges. In particular, we propose a modified the Kullback-Leibler divergence to quantify the convergence.

In Sec. II we give the theoretical foundation for our work. Helicity amplitudes of di-boson processes and polarized production rates are given in Sec. II(a), and in Sec. II(b) we define what we mean by the $v \rightarrow 0$ limit. In Sec. III we define a likelihood to perform the unfolding, and define the relevant signal strength. We present our collider analysis in Sec. IV, which is based on a deep neural network (DNN). In Sec. V, we present our results showing the convergence of our signal strength as well as the modified Kullback-Leibler divergence. Finally, in Sec. VI we conclude.

II. THEORY

A. Amplitudes

To observe the convergence of the Goldstone boson equivalence theorem and restoration of EW symmetry, we need to look at EW gauge boson processes that are longitudinally dominated at high energy. To determine the channels to study, we first calculate diboson helicity amplitudes in the high energy limit [74,76–78]. The fully longitudinal double EW gauge boson production modes are

$$\mathcal{A}(q_+ \bar{q}_- \rightarrow W_L^+ W_L^-) = -i \frac{e^2 Q_q}{2c_W^2} \sin \theta + \mathcal{O}(\hat{s}^{-1}),$$

$$\mathcal{A}(q_- \bar{q}_+ \rightarrow W_L^+ W_L^-) = i \frac{e^2 T_3^q}{6c_W^2 s_W^2} (3c_W^2 + 2T_3^q s_W^2) \sin \theta + \mathcal{O}(\hat{s}^{-1}),$$

$$\mathcal{A}(q_- \bar{q}'_+ \rightarrow W_L^\pm Z_L) = -i \frac{e^2 T_3^q}{\sqrt{2} s_W^2} \sin \theta + \mathcal{O}(\hat{s}^{-1}),$$

$$\mathcal{A}(q_\pm \bar{q}'_\mp \rightarrow Z_L Z_L) = \mathcal{O}(\hat{s}^{-1}), \quad (3)$$

¹In a consistent manner.

where $\sqrt{\hat{s}}$ is the partonic center of mass energy, the subscript L on EW gauge bosons indicates longitudinal polarization, and the subscripts on the quarks indicate quark helicity. For W^+W^- production θ is the angle between W^+ and initial state quark, and for WZ production θ is the angle between the W and the initial state quark. Q_q is the quark q 's charge, T_3^q is the quark q 's isospin, and $c_W = \cos \theta_W$, $s_W = \sin \theta_W$ is the weak mixing angle.

As expected, the fully longitudinal EW gauge boson pair production modes W^+W^- and WZ persist at high energy. However, so do transversely polarized gauge bosons with opposite helicities:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{A}(q\bar{q}_+ \rightarrow W_{\pm}^+ W_{\mp}^-) &= \mp i \frac{e^2}{2s_W^2} \frac{1 + 2T_3^q \cos \theta}{1 \pm \cos \theta} \sin \theta + \mathcal{O}(\hat{s}^{-1}), \\
\mathcal{A}(q\bar{q}'_+ \rightarrow W_{\pm}^{\pm} Z_{\mp}) &= \mp i \frac{e^2}{\sqrt{2}s_W^2 c_W} (g_L^{qZ} (1 + \cos \theta) \\
&\quad + g_L^{qZ} (1 - \cos \theta)) \frac{\sin \theta}{1 \pm \cos \theta} + \mathcal{O}(\hat{s}^{-1}), \\
\mathcal{A}(q\bar{q}_+ \rightarrow Z_+ Z_-) &= 2i \frac{e^2}{s_W^2 c_W^2} g_L^{qZ^2} \sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos \theta}{1 + \cos \theta}} + \mathcal{O}(\hat{s}^{-1}), \\
\mathcal{A}(q_+ \bar{q}_- \rightarrow Z_+ Z_-) &= -2i \frac{e^2}{s_W^2 c_W^2} g_R^{qZ^2} \sqrt{\frac{1 + \cos \theta}{1 - \cos \theta}} + \mathcal{O}(\hat{s}^{-1}),
\end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

where the subscript \pm on EW gauge bosons indicate the transverse helicities, for ZZ final state θ is the angle between the initial state quark and Z_+ , and

$$g_L^{qZ} = T_3^q - Q_q s_W^2, \quad \text{and} \quad g_R^{qZ} = -Q_q s_W^2. \tag{5}$$

All other amplitudes are either zero or suppressed at high energies:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{A}(q_{\pm} \bar{q}_{\mp} \rightarrow W_{\pm}^{\pm} W_L^{\mp}) &\sim \mathcal{A}(q\bar{q}'_+ \rightarrow W_{\pm}^{\pm} Z_L) \\
&\sim \mathcal{A}(q\bar{q}'_+ \rightarrow Z_{\pm} W_L^{\pm}) \\
&\sim \mathcal{A}(q_{\pm} \bar{q}_{\mp} \rightarrow Z_{\pm} Z_L) \sim \mathcal{O}(\hat{s}^{-1/2}), \\
\mathcal{A}(q_{\pm} \bar{q}_{\mp} \rightarrow W_{\pm}^+ W_{\pm}^-) &\sim \mathcal{A}(q\bar{q}'_+ \rightarrow W_{\pm}^{\pm} Z_{\pm}) \\
&\sim \mathcal{A}(q_{\pm} \bar{q}_{\mp} \rightarrow Z_{\pm} Z_{\pm}) \sim \mathcal{O}(\hat{s}^{-1}), \\
\mathcal{A}(q_+ \bar{q}_- \rightarrow W_{\pm}^+ W_{\mp}^-) &= \mathcal{A}(q_+ \bar{q}'_- \rightarrow W_{\lambda}^{\pm} Z_{\lambda'}) = 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

From Eqs. (3) and (4) it is clear that double EW gauge boson production is not longitudinally dominated. Indeed, even though both fully longitudinal and transverse polarizations persist at high energy, as shown in Fig. 1(a,b) WW and WZ production are strongly dominated by the transverse polarizations. Here we use CTEQ6L1 parton

distribution functions (pdfs) [79] implemented in LHAPDF [80] via ManeParse [81]. This is particularly striking in WW production where at high energies 90%–95% of the W s are transversely polarized, while WZ production is 60%–70% transversely polarized. Hence, to find the longitudinally polarized signal and observe EW restoration in $q\bar{q}' \rightarrow VV'$, either the differences in the angular distributions of the gauge bosons must be exploited or their polarizations must be tagged, which is very difficult [12,75,77,82–87]. There is also an additional complication that the gauge bosons are not final state particles and different gauge boson polarizations interfere with each other [75,78,82–84].

These complications do not arise in EW gauge boson production in association with a Higgs [19]:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{A}(q_+ \bar{q}_- \rightarrow Z_L h) &= \pm i \frac{e^2 g_R^{qZ}}{2c_W^2 s_W^2} \sin \theta + \mathcal{O}(\hat{s}^{-1}), \\
\mathcal{A}(q\bar{q}_+ \rightarrow Z_L h) &= \pm i \frac{e^2 g_L^{qZ}}{2c_W^2 s_W^2} \sin \theta + \mathcal{O}(\hat{s}^{-1}), \\
\mathcal{A}(q\bar{q}'_+ \rightarrow W_L^{\pm} h) &= -i \frac{e^2}{2\sqrt{2}s_W^2} \sin \theta + \mathcal{O}(\hat{s}^{-1}), \\
\mathcal{A}(q_{\pm} \bar{q}_{\mp} \rightarrow Z_{\pm} h) &\sim \mathcal{A}(q\bar{q}'_+ \rightarrow W_L^{\pm} h) \sim \mathcal{O}(\hat{s}^{-1/2}), \\
\mathcal{A}(q_+ \bar{q}'_- \rightarrow W_{\pm}^{\pm} h) &= \mathcal{A}(q_+ \bar{q}'_- \rightarrow W_{\mp}^{\mp} h) = 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

The longitudinal polarizations persist at high energy while transverse polarizations decrease with energy. This is even more clear in Figs. 1(c,d), where the transverse polarizations make sub-percent level contributions to the total rate at high transverse momentum. Since $q\bar{q}' \rightarrow Vh$ is quickly dominated by longitudinally polarized gauge bosons, there is no need to use polarization tagging to get a longitudinally enriched signal. Hence, this channel is a prime candidate to observe EW restoration and the focus of our phenomenological analysis.

B. EW restoration

To observe EW restoration, the $SU(2) \times U(1)$ symmetric phase with $v = 0$ should be considered. In this phase, the EW gauge bosons and SM fermions are massless. To obtain $v = 0$, the μ^2 parameter in Eq. (1) must be zero or negative. Hence, in principle the Higgs field could have a nonzero mass. We will enforce the tree level relationships between the Higgs mass m_h , the μ^2 parameter, and the vev then take the limit $v \rightarrow 0$:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mu^2 &= \lambda v^2 \xrightarrow{v \rightarrow 0} 0, \\
m_h^2 &= 2\lambda v^2 \xrightarrow{v \rightarrow 0} 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

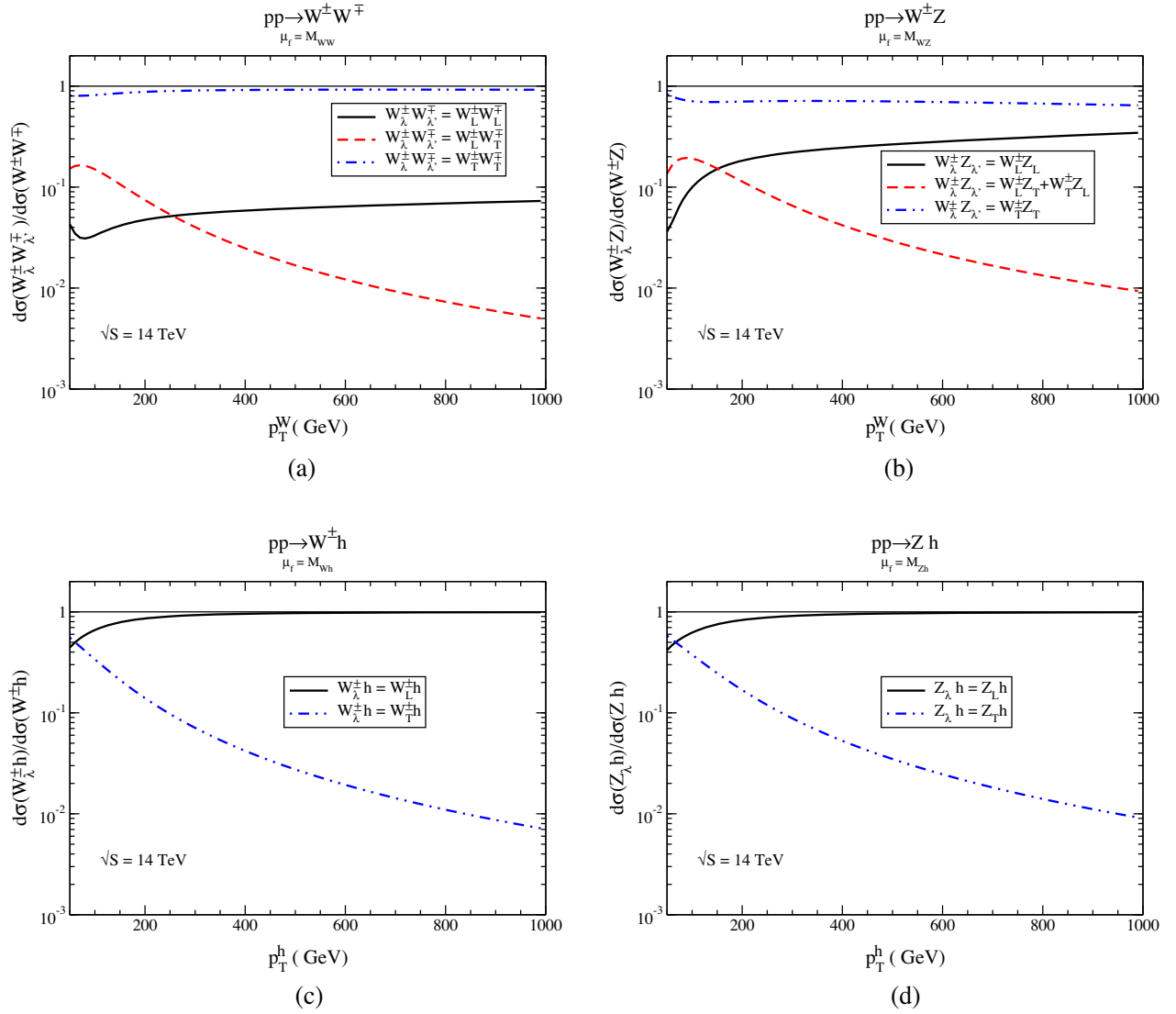


FIG. 1. Ratio of transverse momentum distributions of polarized gauge boson production to the total distribution summed over polarizations. These are shown using W transverse momentum, p_T^W , for (a) $W^\pm W^\mp$ and (b) $W^\pm Z$; and Higgs transverse momentum, p_T^h , for (c) $W^\pm h$ and (d) Zh . The gauge boson polarizations are (blue dash-dot-dot) fully longitudinal, (black solid) fully transverse, and (red dashed) longitudinal + transverse. The lab frame energy is the HL-LHC energy of $\sqrt{S} = 14$ TeV. The subscript T on the gauge bosons indicate summed over transverse polarizations.

That is, we consider a massless Higgs doublet field consistent with the parameter relationships in the SM.

Once the $SU(2) \times U(1)$ symmetry is restored, calculations should be performed in the unbroken phase. The relevant degrees of freedom are the $SU(2)$ gauge boson multiplet, the hypercharge gauge boson, the Higgs doublet, the left-handed fermion doublets, and the right-handed fermion singlets. All fields are massless. However, when considering collider phenomenology a couple complications arise. First, vector bosons, Goldstones, and the Higgs boson are not final state particles. Hence, their charges can be distinguished by the detector via their decay

products. This separates the components of the Higgs doublet and the $SU(2) \times U(1)$ gauge boson multiplets. Second, each flavor of quark has a different pdf and the pdfs distinguish the components of the quark doublets. Each of these effects break EW symmetry at the detector level.

With those considerations we compute Goldstone boson and Higgs production helicity amplitudes with initial and final states considered component-by-component. For intermediate particles the massless gauge bosons of the unbroken $SU(2) \times U(1)$ are used. The relevant helicity amplitudes for diboson production are

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{A}(q_+\bar{q}_- \rightarrow G^0 h) &= -\frac{e^2 g_R^{qZ}}{2c_W^2 s_W^2} \sin\theta, \\
\mathcal{A}(q_-\bar{q}_+ \rightarrow G^0 h) &= \frac{e^2 g_L^{qZ}}{2c_W^2 s_W^2} \sin\theta, \\
\mathcal{A}(q_-\bar{q}_+ \rightarrow G^\pm h) &= \mp i \frac{e^2}{2\sqrt{2}s_W^2} \sin\theta, \\
\mathcal{A}(q_-\bar{q}_+ \rightarrow G^\pm G^0) &= \frac{e^2}{2\sqrt{2}s_W^2} \sin\theta, \\
\mathcal{A}(q_+\bar{q}_- \rightarrow G^+ G^-) &= -i \frac{e^2 Q_q}{2c_W^2} \sin\theta, \\
\mathcal{A}(q_-\bar{q}_+ \rightarrow G^+ G^-) &= -i \frac{e^2 T_3^q}{6c_W^2 s_W^2} (3c_W^2 + 2T_3^q s_W^2) \sin\theta. \quad (9)
\end{aligned}$$

As expected from the Goldstone boson equivalence theorem, the Goldstone boson production amplitudes agree with high energy longitudinal gauge boson amplitudes in Eqs. (3) and (7).

To observe how quickly the Goldstone boson equivalence theorem converges in Vh production, we define signal strengths as ratios of Higgs transverse momentum, p_T^h , distributions:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mu_{Wh} &= \frac{d\sigma(pp \rightarrow W^\pm h)/dp_T^h}{d\sigma(pp \rightarrow G^\pm h)/dp_T^h}, \\
\mu_{Zh} &= \frac{d\sigma(pp \rightarrow Zh)/dp_T^h}{d\sigma(pp \rightarrow G^0 h)/dp_T^h}. \quad (10)
\end{aligned}$$

While $\sqrt{\hat{s}}$ is the relevant quantity for the convergence of the GBET, we use p_T^h since it is more easily reconstructable when there is missing energy from gauge boson decays. The signal strengths are shown in Fig. 2 for both the HL-LHC with lab frame energy $\sqrt{S} = 14$ TeV and the HE-LHC with $\sqrt{S} = 27$ TeV. While there is a very large difference between the Vh and Goldstone boson plus Higgs distributions at low transverse momentum, they converge fairly quickly. At transverse moment of $p_T^h \sim 400$ GeV, the Vh and Gh distributions agree at the $\sim 80\%$ level.

Both μ_{Wh} and μ_{Zh} are in good agreement for the entire p_T^h range at the HL- and HE-LHC. Hence, a uniform signal strength can be defined for both $W^\pm h$ and Zh :

$$\mu_{Vh} = \mu_{Wh} = \mu_{Zh}. \quad (11)$$

Then both $W^\pm h$ and Zh distributions can be fit to the same parameter, making the combination of these measurements straightforward.

III. SIGNAL STRENGTH AND LIKELIHOOD

We now turn to how to observe EW restoration in the EW gauge boson plus Higgs boson production via the

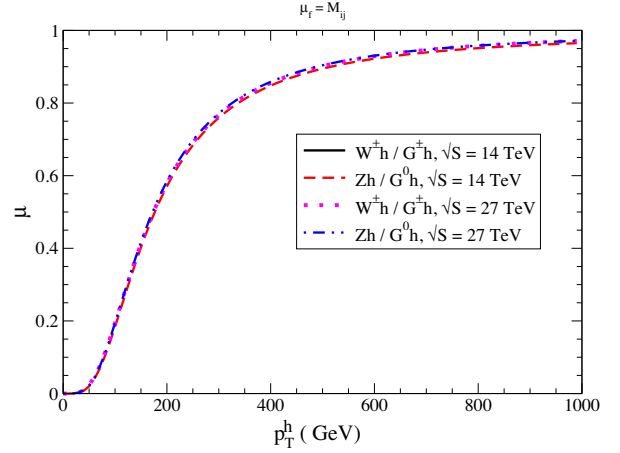


FIG. 2. Signal strengths (black solid) μ_{Wh} , (red dashed) μ_{Zh} at $\sqrt{S} = 14$ TeV and (magenta dotted) μ_{Wh} , (blue dash-dot-dot) μ_{Zh} at $\sqrt{S} = 27$ TeV.

signal strength in Eq. (11). As discussed before, one immediate issue is that the vector and scalar bosons are not final state particles, and their decay products are detected. The complication is that although the production of Vh occurs at high energies, the decays of the vector boson and Higgs occur at the EW scale ~ 100 GeV where the Goldstone boson equivalence theorem is not a good approximation.

To extract the signal strength [Eq. (11)], the detector level events need to be unfolded [88–90] to the partonic $q\bar{q} \rightarrow Vh$ level. There are many modern machine learning [91–94] methods to unfold events. However, we are primarily interested in only the Higgs transverse momentum distribution. Hence, we adapt the unfolding method in Ref. [95] and use a simple one-dimensional likelihood function method. For each bin of p_T^h we define a likelihood function:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{L}_i(\Delta\sigma_1^{Vh}, \Delta\sigma_2^{Vh}, \dots) \\
= \frac{(\sum_j \Delta\sigma_j^{Vh} \epsilon_{ij} L + B_i)^{n_{obs,i}}}{n_{obs,i}!} e^{-\sum_j \Delta\sigma_j^{Vh} \epsilon_{ij} L - B_i}, \quad (12)
\end{aligned}$$

where i labels each p_T^h bin; B_i is the expected number of background events and $n_{obs,i}$ the total number of observed events in the i th bin; L is the integrated luminosity; $\Delta\sigma_i^{Vh}$ is the partonic cross section in each bin; and ϵ_{ij} is an efficiency matrix. The efficiency matrix takes into account detector effects, branching ratios, parton showering, and hadronization. Using the uniform signal strength in Eq. (11), the binned likelihood function is

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{L}_i(\mu_{Vh}^1, \mu_{Vh}^2, \dots) \\
= \frac{(\sum_j \mu_{Vh}^j \Delta\sigma_j^{Gh} \epsilon_{ij} L + B_i)^{n_{obs,i}}}{n_{obs,i}!} e^{-\sum_j \mu_{Vh}^j \Delta\sigma_j^{Gh} \epsilon_{ij} L - B_i}, \quad (13)
\end{aligned}$$

where μ_{Vh}^j is the signal strength and $\Delta\sigma_j^{Gh}$ the Goldstone boson plus Higgs production rate in the j th Higgs transverse momentum bin. For Zh production the relevant Goldstone process is G^0h and for $W^\pm h$ it is $G^\pm h$.

The efficiency matrix takes care of the probability that a parton level event in the i th bin is in the j th bin at the detector level. To calculate ϵ_{ij} we generate Vh events in MADGRAPH5_aMC@NLO [96] with parton showers and hadronization via PYTHIA8 [97] and detector effects via DELPHES3 [98]. By comparing detector level reconstructed p_T^h to the parton level information from MADGRAPH5_aMC@NLO, the efficiency matrix ϵ_{ij} can be determined.

Finally, we use the global likelihood across all bins

$$\mathcal{L}(\mu_{Vh}^1, \mu_{Vh}^2, \dots) = \prod_i \mathcal{L}_i(\mu_{Vh}^1, \mu_{Vh}^2, \dots) \text{Pois}(n_{obs,i} | S_i + B_i), \quad (14)$$

where $\text{Pois}(x|y)$ is a conditional Poisson distribution and S_i is the expected number of signal events in the i th bin. Now, given a number of observed events $n_{obs,i}$, Eq. (14) is maximized to determine the binned signal strengths μ_{Vh}^i .

IV. COLLIDER ANALYSIS

We now turn to extracting our signal from background. To get larger rates and clean signals, we consider $h \rightarrow bb$ and leptonic decays of the EW gauge boson. Signal events are decomposed into six categories:

- (1) Two lepton final states, $Zh \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^- b\bar{b}$, with either
 - (a) exactly two jets from the Higgs or
 - (b) three or more jets.
- (2) One lepton final states, $Wh \rightarrow \ell \nu b\bar{b}$, with either
 - (a) exactly two jets from the Higgs or
 - (b) exactly three jets.
- (3) Zero lepton final states, $Zh \rightarrow \nu \nu b\bar{b}$, with either
 - (a) exactly two jets from $h \rightarrow bb$ or
 - (b) exactly three jets.

Note, for each signal with different multiplicities of jets, the efficiency matrix ϵ_{ij} in Eq. (13) must be recalculated to map onto the partonic $q\bar{q} \rightarrow Vh$ event.

The major backgrounds are: QCD production of $V + ll$, $V + \text{HF}$, $V + cl$ as well as top pair, single top and vector boson pair. Here $l = u, d, s, g$, and HF indicates ‘‘heavy flavor’’: bb, bc, cc, bl . For the zero and one-lepton signals, we include backgrounds from missing leptons. The missing lepton rate is estimated by using the default setting of DELPHES3.

A. Simulation

We use MADGRAPH5_aMC@NLO [96] for parton level generation and heavy particle decay, PYTHIA8 [97] for parton showers and hadronization, DELPHES3 [98] for fast

detector simulation. Finally, MLM jet matching [99] up to one additional jet is used for background simulation.

In the detector simulation, we use the default CMS card with some modifications. While there is a DELPHES3 card for Future Circular Colliders (FCC) that can be used for 27 TeV, for simplicity and direct comparison with 14 TeV results we use the CMS card for both the HL and HE-LHC. The FCC DELPHES3 card has electron tracking efficiency of 99% for transverse momentum greater than 1 GeV. Hence, we use the same basic acceptance cuts for leptons at both the 14 TeV HL-LHC and 27 TeV HE-LHC [100]:

- (i) Lepton transverse momentum, p_T^ℓ :

$$p_T^\ell \geq 27 \text{ GeV}. \quad (15)$$

- (ii) Lepton, η_ℓ , and jet, η_j , rapidity:

$$|\eta_\ell| \leq 2.5, \quad |\eta_j| \leq 5.0 \quad (16)$$

- (iii) Minimum separation between jets, j , and leptons, ℓ :

$$\Delta R_{jj} \geq 0.4, \quad \Delta R_{j\ell} \geq 0.4, \quad \Delta R_{\ell\ell} \geq 0.4. \quad (17)$$

- (iv) Electron isolation: $\text{PTRatioMax} = 0.43^2$ considering particles with $p_T > 0.5$ GeV and within a cone of radius $\Delta R < 0.3$.

- (v) Muon isolation: $\text{PTRatioMax} = 0.25$ considering particles with $p_T > 0.5$ GeV and within a cone of radius $\Delta R < 0.4$.

The minimum jet transverse momentum, p_T^j , requirement is different between 14 and 27 TeV:

- (i) At 14 TeV:

$$p_T^j \geq 20 \text{ GeV}. \quad (18)$$

- (ii) At 27 TeV [101]:

$$p_T^j \geq 30 \text{ GeV}. \quad (19)$$

Finally, since our signal is rich in b -quarks, we also use a b tagging rate of 0.70 with mis-tag rates of 0.125 for charm jets and 0.003 for light jets [102].

B. Classification

To classify signal from background, we use ‘‘precuts’’ followed by a DNN. The precuts are basic multiplicity and invariant mass cuts to help separate signal and background:

- (i) For the two lepton signals ($n_\ell = 2$) we require exactly two same flavor, opposite sign leptons that reconstruct the Z mass $|m_{\ell\ell} - m_Z| \leq 10$ GeV, where $m_{\ell\ell}$ is the dilepton invariant mass. In

²See Eq. (3.1) of Ref. [98] for definition of PTRatioMax .

addition, we require at least two jets ($n_j \geq 2$) passing the cuts in Eqs. (16), (18), and (19).

- (ii) For both the zero ($n_\ell = 0$) and one lepton ($n_\ell = 1$) signal we require either two or three jets ($n_j = 2, 3$) to pass the cuts in Eqs. (16), (18), and (19).

For all signals we require exactly two b -tagged jets ($n_b = 2$).

After events pass the pre-cuts, a DNN is used to further classify signal and background. The inputs of the DNN are high-level reconstructed variables and are detailed in Appendix. The DNN is a binary classifier consisting of three hidden layers with 2^{10} , 2^{12} , and 2^{10} nodes. We adopt LeakyReLU [103] for non-linearity, use batch normalization between layers, and the output layer uses softmax to create a probability. We use cross entropy as the loss function with an $L2$ penalty:

$$L = -y_s \log p - (1 - y_s) \log(1 - p) + \lambda \|W\|^2, \quad (20)$$

where y_s is the signal indicator with $y_s = 1$ for signal and $y_s = 0$ for background, p is the predicted signal probability, and $\|W\|^2$ is the matrix norm of the weight matrices. While the same DNN structure is used for all six categories, the $L2$ penalty value λ changes.

Cut flow tables and signal significances are given in Table I for two lepton categories, Table II for the one lepton categories, and Table III for the zero lepton category at both 14 and 27 TeV. The significances are calculated for the benchmark luminosities of 3 ab^{-1} for the HL-LHC and 15 ab^{-1} for the HE-LHC. We use the asymptotic formula for a discovery significance with Poisson statistics

$$\sigma = \sqrt{2 \left((N_s + N_b) \times \log \left(1 + \frac{N_s}{N_b} \right) - N_s \right)}, \quad (21)$$

TABLE I. Cut flow table and signal significance after the DNN for the two lepton categories. The significances correspond to 3 ab^{-1} at 14 TeV and 15 ab^{-1} at 27 TeV. All backgrounds include possible decays leading to events with and without missing leptons.

	14 TeV				27 TeV			
	$n_j = 2$		$n_j = 3$		$n_j = 2$		$n_j = 3$	
	Pre-Cut	DNN	Pre-Cut	DNN	Pre-Cut	DNN	Pre-Cut	DNN
$h_{bb}Z\ell\ell$	1.1 fb	0.22 fb	1.1 fb	0.23 fb	2.0 fb	0.87 fb	1.6 fb	1.2 fb
$Z + \text{HF}$	300 fb	1.4 fb	530 fb	3.3 fb	580 fb	16 fb	780 fb	120 fb
$t\bar{t}$	27 fb	0.14 fb	69 fb	0.095 fb	92 fb	1.6 fb	180 fb	19 fb
Single top	0.85 fb	0.0036 fb	3.5 fb	0.0041 fb	2.9 fb	0.047 fb	11 fb	1.0 fb
$Zc\bar{l}$	0.18 fb	0.0036 fb	2.1 fb	0.025 fb	0.75 fb	0.034 fb	6.4 fb	0.94 fb
$Zl\bar{l}$	0.68 fb	0.019 fb	13 fb	0.20 fb	2.0 fb	0.096 fb	27 fb	4.1 fb
VV'	4.8 fb	0.026 fb	5.4 fb	0.051 fb	6.5 fb	0.22 fb	7.8 fb	1.5 fb
Signal significance	9.4		6.5		25		13	

TABLE II. Cut flow table and signal significance after the DNN for the one lepton categories. The significances correspond to 3 ab^{-1} at 14 TeV and 15 ab^{-1} at 27 TeV. All backgrounds include possible decays leading to events with and without missing leptons.

	14 TeV				27 TeV			
	$n_j = 2$		$n_j = 3$		$n_j = 2$		$n_j = 3$	
	Pre-Cut	DNN	Pre-Cut	DNN	Pre-Cut	DNN	Pre-Cut	DNN
$h_{bb}W\ell\nu$	12 fb	6.1 fb	7.3 fb	0.38 fb	19 fb	9.6 fb	9.8 fb	1.2 fb
$W + \text{HF}$	580 fb	38 fb	640 fb	0.035 fb	790 fb	43 fb	940 fb	0.33 fb
$Z + \text{HF}$	310 fb	8.5 fb	380 fb	9.7×10^{-5} fb	640 fb	21 fb	670 fb	0.048 fb
$t\bar{t}$	150 fb	15 fb	560 fb	0.30 fb	580 fb	28 fb	1500 fb	0.93 fb
Single top	11 fb	1.1 fb	68 fb	0.053 fb	36 fb	1.7 fb	100 fb	0.12 fb
$Wc\bar{l}$	4.9 fb	0.46 fb	12 fb	2.5×10^{-3} fb	8.0 fb	0.56 fb	19 fb	0.027 fb
$Wl\bar{l}$	10 fb	1.2 fb	36 fb	0.021 fb	28 fb	2.7 fb	92 fb	0.34 fb
$Zc\bar{l}$	0.15 fb	4.2×10^{-3} fb	0.51 fb	0 fb	0.62 fb	0.012 fb	1.8 fb	7.2×10^{-5} fb
$Zl\bar{l}$	0.49 fb	0.014 fb	2.0 fb	4.7×10^{-5} fb	1.5 fb	0.032 fb	5.2 fb	6.0×10^{-4} fb
VV'	34 fb	2.0 fb	28 fb	0.015 fb	41 fb	1.9 fb	33 fb	0.11 fb
Signal significance	40		28		120		98	

TABLE III. Cut flow table and signal significance after the DNN for the zero lepton categories. The significances correspond to 3 ab^{-1} at 14 TeV and 15 ab^{-1} at 27 TeV. All backgrounds include possible decays leading to events with and without missing leptons.

	14 TeV				27 TeV			
	$n_j = 2$		$n_j = 3$		$n_j = 2$		$n_j = 3$	
	Pre-Cut	DNN	Pre-Cut	DNN	Pre-Cut	DNN	Pre-Cut	DNN
$h_{bb}Z_{\nu\nu}$	9.8 fb	4.7 fb	6.3 fb	1.6 fb	18 fb	7.9 fb	9.6 fb	1.4 fb
$W + \text{HF}$	310 fb	7.6 fb	440 fb	0.020 fb	420 fb	14 fb	680 fb	0.028 fb
$Z + \text{HF}$	2900 fb	110 fb	2900 fb	0.35 fb	5700 fb	260 fb	5000 fb	0.72 fb
tt	7.6 fb	0.16 fb	170 fb	0.041 fb	42 fb	0.22 fb	460 fb	0.020 fb
Single top	1.3 fb	0.035 fb	22 fb	0.0091 fb	1.5 fb	0.0057 fb	19 fb	0.0019 fb
Wcl	1.1 fb	0.026 fb	4.2 fb	5.3×10^{-4} fb	2.4 fb	0.059 fb	7.4 fb	0.0010 fb
Wll	3.7 fb	0.087 fb	19 fb	0.014 fb	13 fb	0.38 fb	49 fb	0.028 fb
Zcl	1.4 fb	0.15 fb	4.7 fb	0.0065 fb	3.3 fb	0.23 fb	9.0 fb	0.013 fb
Zll	6.8 fb	0.78 fb	26 fb	0.12 fb	22 fb	1.6 fb	80 fb	0.20 fb
VV'	68 fb	3.9 fb	51 fb	0.084 fb	89 fb	4.7 fb	65 fb	0.15 fb
Signal significance	23		84		58		140	

where N_s , N_b are the number of signal and background events, respectively. It is clear that background and signal are well separated.

In Fig. 3 we show the reconstructed vector boson p_T distributions after the DNN selection for all six categories. The background is cumulative, and the signal is overlaid. At high energies the signal and background separation is better. This is precisely where we expect to see EW restoration.

V. RESULTS

To fit the signal strengths in Eq. (11) we perform pseudoexperiments to sample the binned p_T^h distribution. After the collider analysis of the previous section, we have a sample of signal and background events. That sample is used to create a probability density function (PDF) for the signal and background p_T^h distribution. The total number of events is sampled according to a Gaussian distribution with the mean $\nu = S_{\text{tot}} + B_{\text{tot}}$ and standard deviation $\sigma = \sqrt{\nu}$, where the total number of expected signal and background events are

$$S_{\text{tot}} = \sum_i S_i, \quad B_{\text{tot}} = \sum_i B_i, \quad (22)$$

respectively, and S_i , B_i are the expected number of signal and background events in the i th bin after the DNN, respectively. The total number of events is then distributed according to the p_T^h PDF. In practice, instead of the Higgs transverse momentum, we use the dilepton p_T for two lepton categories. At tree level, this is equivalent to p_T^h for the Vh signal. For the zero and one lepton categories, we do use the reconstructed Higgs p_T .

For each of the six categories, we perform these pseudoexperiments at 14 TeV and 27 TeV. Then the p_T^h

distribution is repeatedly sampled for each pseudoexperiment. These samples determine the number of observed events $n_{\text{obs},i}$ for each bin in Eqs. (12), (13), and (14). In Eqs. (12), (13), and (14), S_i and B_i are the same as used to set the mean and standard deviation for $n_{\text{obs},i}$ sampling. For each pseudoexperiment, we maximize the likelihood function Eq. (14) to find the best fit value for the signal strength and then determine the 68% CL on μ_{Vh} . For each category, we average the best fit values and error bars over all pseudoexperiments.

In Fig. 4 we show the signal strength mean value and 68% CL for each of the 6 categories at 14 and 27 TeV with 3 ab^{-1} and 15 ab^{-1} of data, respectively. As expected, all categories at a given lab frame energy \sqrt{S} have the same central values for μ_{Vh} . Also, the two jet categories have much smaller uncertainties than the three jets, indicating little information is gained from the three jet categories.

Now that we have the individual signal strengths, we can combine them. To do this, we create a “global” likelihood that is the product of the likelihoods for the six signal categories. Then we perform the same procedure above with pseudoexperiments for each category to find the central value and 68% CL for μ_{Vh} . These results are shown in Fig. 5 for both (a) the HL-LHC and (b) the HE-LHC, with the predicted partonic level signal strength overlaid. As can be seen, the extracted central value is indistinguishable from the prediction. In an optimistic scenario, the systematic uncertainty on Vh production is expected to be 5% [101]. The red uncertainty bands show the statistical uncertainty, and the green bands show statistical and a 5% systematic uncertainty added in quadrature.

At low p_T^h , the signal strength is significantly far from one and then converges to one at higher energies, as expected. Indeed, in the last overflow bin, we find the central value of the signal strength and 68% CL to be

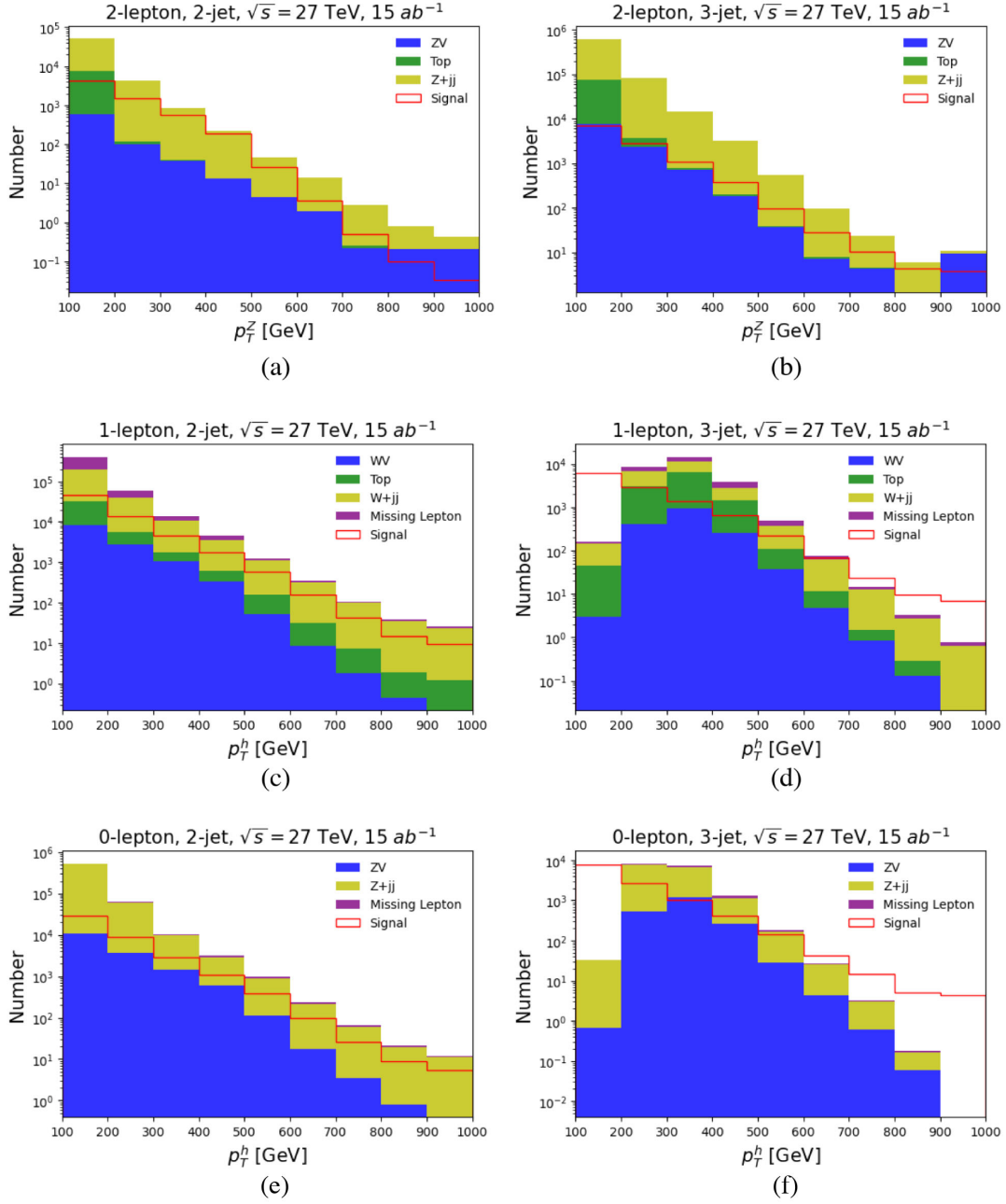


FIG. 3. The number of events for (red line) signal and (colored bars) background at 27 TeV with 15 ab^{-1} of data. The background is cumulative and the signal overlaid. We show (a,b) two lepton, (c,d) one lepton, and (e,f) zero lepton signal categories for (left-hand side) two jet and (right-hand side) three jet channels. The last bin is an overflow bin. $V + jj$ backgrounds include $V + HF$, $V + cl$, and $V + ll$. Here, ZV and WV (Top) indicate VV' (tt and single top) backgrounds with no missing leptons. “Missing lepton” indicates backgrounds where a lepton is missed, which is all other backgrounds except those explicitly listed.

$$\mu_{Vh} = \begin{cases} 1 \pm 0.4 & \text{at the HL-LHC} \\ 1 \pm 0.06 & \text{at the HE-LHC} \end{cases}. \quad (23)$$

That is, the signal agrees with the EW restoration prediction at 40% at the HL-LHC and 6% at the HE-LHC. Hence, the Vh rate converges to the expected rate with EW symmetry restored. This measurable convergence indicates

empirically that the longitudinal modes can be replaced with the Goldstone bosons, and EW restoration can be observed at high energies.

A. Statistical test of EW restoration

To test how well EW restoration is being observed, one needs to measure how the convergence is improving

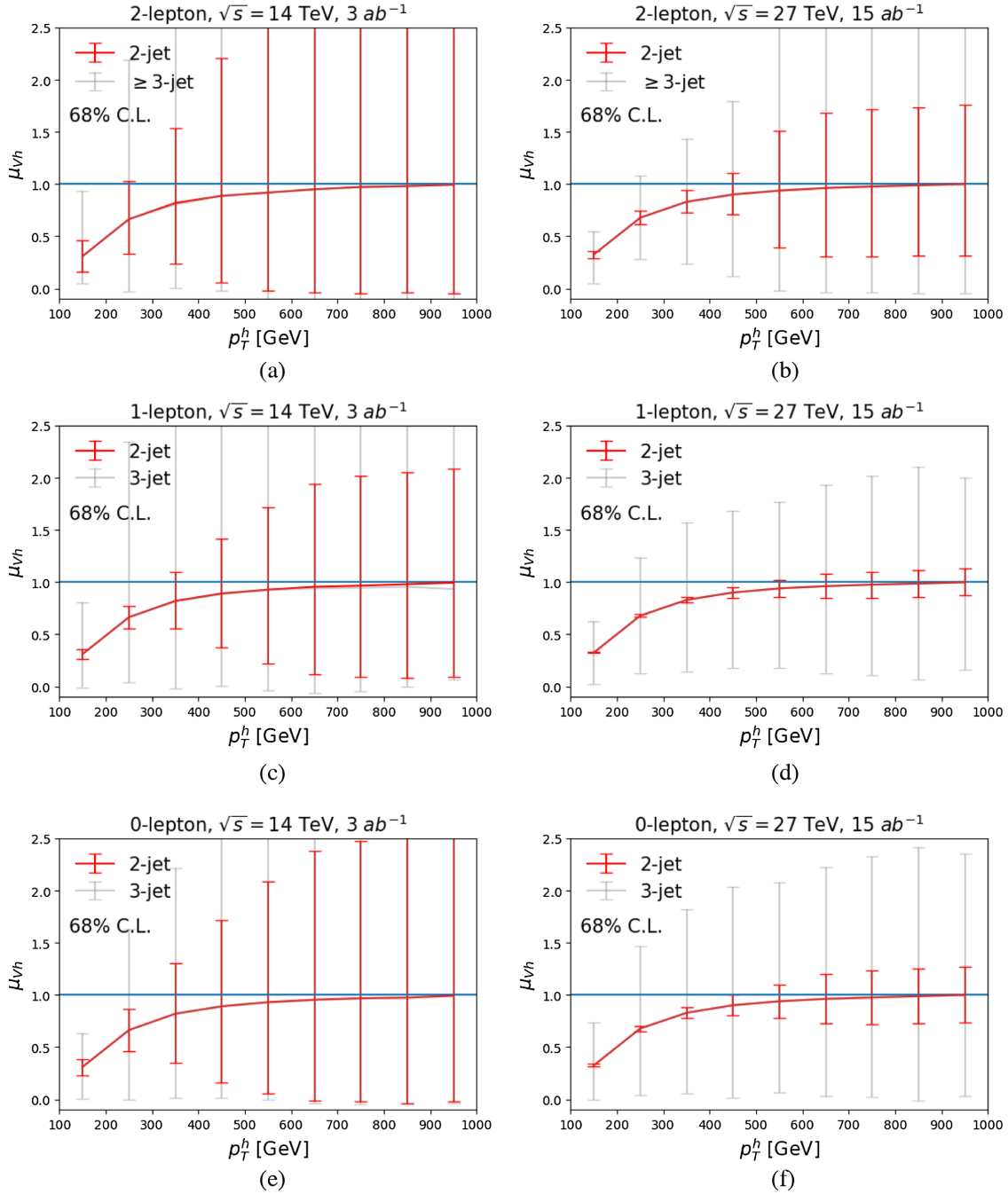


FIG. 4. Signal strengths μ_{Vh} central values and 68% CL for (a,b) two lepton categories, (c,d) one lepton categories, and (e,f) zero lepton categories for (a,c,e) 14 TeV with $3 ab^{-1}$ and (b,d,f) 27 TeV with $15 ab^{-1}$. We show the (red) two jet and (gray) three jet categories separately.

by using higher and higher energy bins. At low p_T^h bins, although the statistical error is small, the Goldstone and gauge boson distributions do not agree. As one moves toward higher p_T^h bins, while the two distributions converge, the statistical errors also increase, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5. In this section we explore statistical measures of the restoration and discuss their implications, taking into account both the theory convergence as

well as the experimental uncertainties. The goal is, assuming that the SM is a good description of the data, we want to test the agreement between the $q\bar{q}' \rightarrow Vh$ and $q\bar{q}' \rightarrow Gh$ ($\mu_{Vh}^j = 1$) production as a function of p_T^h .

As a first choice, using the language that the high energy physics community is more familiar with, we consider using “ χ^2 per degree of freedom” as a function of p_T bins.

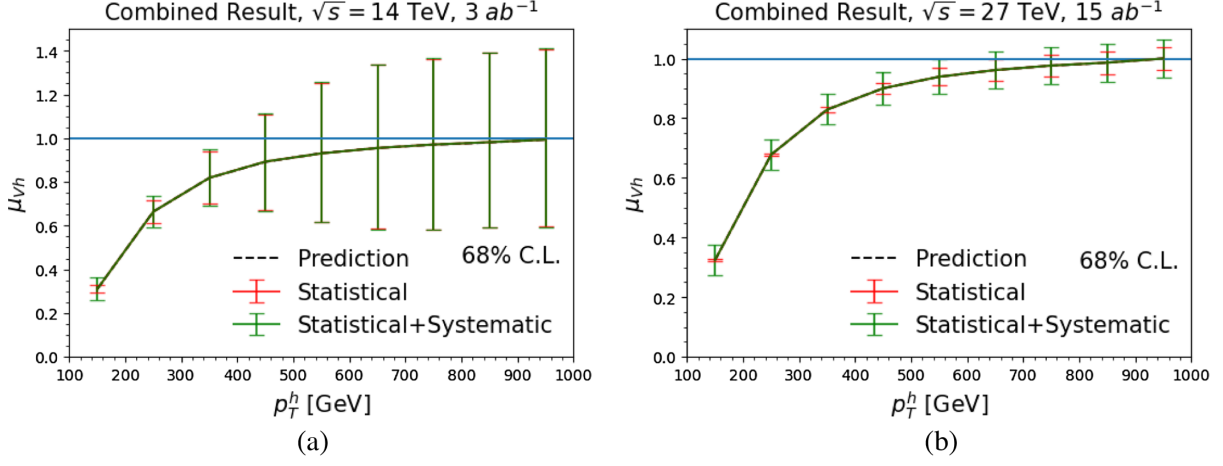


FIG. 5. Combined central values across all categories and 68% CL for extracted signal strengths μ_{Vh} at (a) 14 TeV with 3 ab^{-1} and (b) 27 TeV with 15 ab^{-1} . Black dashed lines are the partonic level prediction, the red bars are statistical uncertainty, the green bars are statistical and a 5% systematic uncertainty added in quadrature.

One generically anticipates this quantity to decrease as an indicator of better convergence. After using the method in the previous sections in separating signal and background, we now have six-category samples, post-selection cuts, that have the significance of our analysis as a function of p_T^h . One can define “ χ^2 per degree of freedom”³:

$$\Delta\chi_m^2 = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{l=1}^m \log \left(\frac{\text{Pois}(n_{obs,l} | \sum_j \Delta\sigma_j^{Gh} \epsilon_{lj} L + B_l)}{\text{Pois}(n_{obs,l} | S_l + B_l)} \right), \quad (24)$$

where we sum over the m ranked p_T^h bins (from low to high). Using the methods of the previous section, we perform 10,000 pseudoexperiments. The results are shown in the left panel of Fig. 6. We show the median over all pseudoexperiments as well as the band where 68% and 95% of the pseudoexperiments lie. From the figure we can see, as anticipated, the $\Delta\chi_m^2$ decreases as one includes more high p_T^h bins.

However, we note here that $\Delta\chi_m^2$ has some disadvantages in measuring restoration. First, for the low p_T^h bins, each bin contributes to a sizable $\Delta\chi^2$ since the Gh and Vh hypothesis are in poor agreement and statistical uncertainty is small. At high p_T^h , the statistical uncertainties increase. Hence, even if the Gh and Vh distributions do not converge, as more bins are averaged over $\Delta\chi_m^2$ will decrease. In other words, even if the higher bins contain no separation power, e.g., the background uncertainty being infinitely larger than the signal strength, the $\Delta\chi_m^2$ decreases. This reflects that $\Delta\chi_m^2$ measures the agreement between two hypotheses: as the uncertainties increase, the error bars overlap, and the hypotheses are in “good agreement.” However, to measure EW restoration, the

³Here we use the log-likelihood ratio as delta chi-square for each bin.

convergence of Vh and Gh must be measured and $\Delta\chi_m^2$ is not a good measure of convergence.

As can be seen, the measurement of the EW restoration is not a typical particle physics test. The issue is that we want to measure the convergence of two hypotheses with energy, not just determine how well they agree globally. Ideally, the measure should contrast different hypotheses for a given experimental data set with proper weight for each bin according to the “information” contained there. We turn to Shannon’s information theory and find that generically $-p \log p$ measures the information of a distribution p . While there might be an equivalent or better definition outside of our scope, we use a modified Kullback-Leibler (KL) divergence. KL divergence is a commonly used quantity contrasting the information between two different distributions, and often plays the role of loss function for machine learning. The KL divergence tests the information difference between two hypotheses. To do this, for each pseudoexperiment we first define properly normalized probability for each bin for the Vh hypothesis

$$p_i^{\leq m} = \prod_{\substack{6 \text{ signal} \\ \text{categories}}} \frac{\text{Pois}(n_{obs,i} | S_i + B_i)}{\sum_{l=1}^m \text{Pois}(n_{obs,l} | S_l + B_l)}, \quad (25)$$

where the $i \leq m$ are bin numbers with increasing p_T^h . We have assumed independent event samples, and so have taken a product of probabilities across all signal categories. Restricting ourselves to $p_T^h \leq p_{T,m}^h$ with $p_{T,m}^h$ being the central value of p_T^h in the m th bin, $p_i^{\leq m}$ is the probability of observing $n_{obs,i}$ events in bin i given a SM hypothesis of $S_i + B_i$ bins. The Gh hypothesis is equivalent to signal strengths of one: $\mu_{Vh} = 1$. Using the efficiency matrices ϵ_{ij} we can define an analogue conditional probability for the Gh hypothesis:

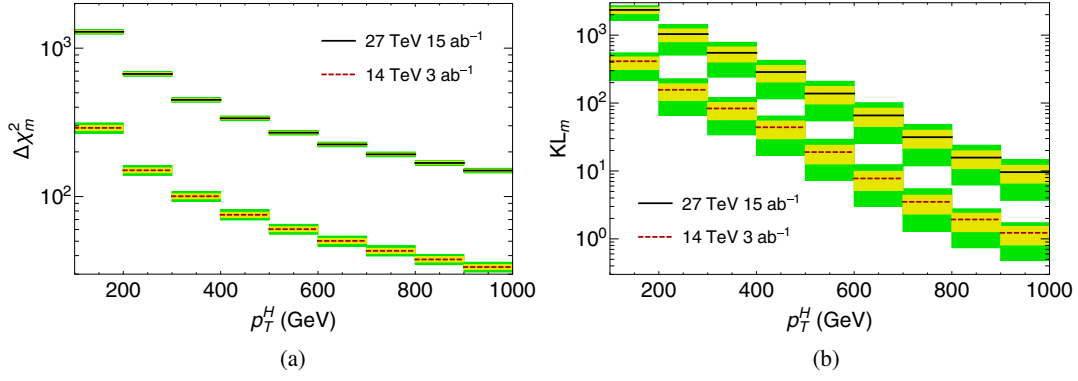


FIG. 6. The χ^2 per degree of freedom $\Delta\chi_m^2$ defined in Eq. (24) (left panel) KL divergence Δ defined in Eq. (27) (right panel) for 14 TeV with 3 ab^{-1} and 27 TeV with 15 ab^{-1} . The back (red dashed) line represents the median values of the 27 TeV (14 TeV) results, and the yellow and green bands represent the values where 68% and 95% of pseudoexperiments lie, respectively.

$$q_i^{\leq m} = \prod_{\text{6 signal categories}} \frac{\text{Pois}(n_{\text{obs},i} | \sum_j \Delta\sigma_j^{Gh} \epsilon_{ij} L + B_i)}{\sum_{l=1}^m \text{Pois}(n_{\text{obs},l} | \sum_j \Delta\sigma_j^{Gh} \epsilon_{lj} L + B_l)}, \quad (26)$$

where the sum over j is over all bins and *not* restricted to bins less than $p_{T,m}^h$. The KL divergence for the first m bins is then:

$$KL_m = \sum_{i=1}^m p_i^{\leq m} \log \left(\frac{p_i^{\leq m}}{q_i^{\leq m}} \right). \quad (27)$$

Now the interpretation of the KL-divergence is clear. If the two hypotheses describe the data equally well, the log goes to zero and the KL divergence is zero. The KL-divergence has a similar property as the Gibbs free energy, being positive definite. Hence, when the agreement of the two hypotheses is worse, KL_m is larger. As more bins are included, we expect the EW restoration to describe data better and the KL divergence should approach zero.

When the two hypotheses do not agree, the weighted sum in Eq. (27) guarantees that the largest contributions come from bins for the conditional probabilities $p_i^{\leq m}$ are largest. Hence, the KL divergence contains more information than $\Delta\chi_m^2$ and is expected to be a better measure of convergence. In Fig. 6 we show the differential KL divergence, KL_m . We show the median over all pseudoexperiments as well as the band where 68% and 95% of the pseudo-experiments lie. As can be clearly seen, whereas the χ^2 per degree of freedom test began to plateau at high energies, the KL-divergence decrease more steadily. This more readily shows that the agreement of the Vh and Gh hypotheses continues to get better at high p_T^h and we observe EW restoration.

We want to emphasize here that the convergence between Vh and Gh distributions is directly represented by the fact that $\Delta\chi_m^2$ and KL_m decrease as higher and higher p_T^h bins are included. We would like to note that somewhat counterintuitively the 14 TeV statistical tests seem to be

“better” than the 27 TeV results. That is, the 14 TeV values are lower. Even if we had p_T bins larger than 1 TeV, the 27 TeV results will not “beat” the 14 TeV results. This is because the smaller uncertainties at 27 TeV cause the first bin, where agreement is poor, to be considerably greater than the 14 TeV results. This results in the entire 27 TeV $\Delta\chi_m^2$ and KL_m distributions being greater than at 14 TeV. That is, although the uncertainties of the differential cross sections between different machines can be compared to determine which machine is more sensitive, the nonconventional tests of the convergence of the signal strengths, i.e., $\Delta\chi_m^2$ and KL_m , should be considered on a machine-by-machine basis.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have studied the potential of the HL-LHC and HE-LHC to observe EW restoration in $pp \rightarrow Vh$ production. Discussions of EW symmetry restoration have traditionally been limited to the longitudinal vector boson scattering. Using the Goldstone boson equivalence theorem, it can be seen that this scattering occurs via the quartic term in the Higgs potential. However, Goldstone bosons also have interactions via the Higgs kinetic terms. These terms contribute to the production of longitudinal gauge bosons in $q\bar{q}' \rightarrow VV'$ and $q\bar{q}' \rightarrow Vh$ channels.

As we showed, the $q\bar{q}' \rightarrow VV'$ production is dominated by transverse polarizations to very high energies. Hence, it is difficult to observe Goldstone boson production in this channel. Since $q\bar{q}' \rightarrow Vh$ is a purely s -channel process with a component of the Higgs doublet, it is longitudinally dominated starting at relatively low energies. In Sec. II, we defined EW symmetry restoration by taking the limit of the Higgs vev going to zero and enforcing the SM tree-level relations for the Higgs potential parameters. This results in a massless Higgs doublet in the EW restored theory. From this, we defined a differential signal strength μ_{Vh} as the ratio of the p_T^h distributions of Vh and Gh production. As shown, this signal strength is the same

for Zh and $W^\pm h$, allowing for easy extraction of global signal strength in all Vh channels. This convergence can be seen in Fig. 2.

As EW symmetry is restored, the longitudinal gauge bosons are replaced with their Goldstone boson counterparts. Hence, the signal strength μ_{Vh} is expected to converge to the Goldstone calculation at high energies. Using a sophisticated collider analysis, we showed that by performing a fit to these signal strengths, it can be observed that the Vh channel converges to Gh at high energies. Indeed, for $p_T^h \sim 400$ GeV, the Vh and Gh distributions agree at around 80%. Additionally, as can be seen in Figs. 4 and 5, the extracted signal strength in all Vh signal categories agrees with the partonic level prediction. Finally, to quantify the agreement between the Vh and Gh hypothesis, we defined a differential Kullback-Leibler divergence. If two hypotheses agree, the KL divergence is small. As shown in Fig. 6, the Vh and Gh hypothesis agree well at high energy, and EW restoration can be well observed.

To summarize, we demonstrated the EW restoration could be observed in the Vh channel. Indeed, EW restoration can be confirmed to 40% precision at the HL-LHC and 6% precision at the HE-LHC. Our study can be further extended to other future colliders, as well as the other diboson production modes highlighted in the theory discussion. Our study clearly highlights the possibility of studying the physics phenomena of electroweak restoration at high energy colliders as well as electroweak breaking.

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APPENDIX: DNN INPUTS

First, note the Higgs is always reconstructed from the two leading bottom tagged jets. In the 2-lepton categories the Z is reconstructed from the two leptons, and in the zero lepton category the Z is reconstructed from the missing transverse energy. Note for the zero lepton category, we only reconstruct the p_T of the Z . In the 1-lepton case, there is a missing neutrino. Its transverse momentum is assumed to be the missing transverse energy of the event. The neutrino's longitudinal momentum is found by requiring that the neutrino plus lepton system reconstruct the W -mass. This leads to a two-fold ambiguity, and we choose the neutrino momentum that is closer to the lepton. Hence, in the 1-lepton case the W is reconstructed. Additionally, we label the leading bottom jet at b_0 , the next to leading bottom jet as b_1 , and the leptons as ℓ_0, ℓ_1 similarly. For 3-jet categories, we label the leading non- b jet as j .

The following definitions are used:

- (i) The invariant mass of two objects i, j is M_{ij} .
- (ii) The reconstructed mass of an object i is M_i^{recon} .
- (iii) For a final state system i , the transverse mass is defined at $M_{T,i} = \sqrt{E_i^2 - p_{z,i}^2}$, where E_i is the total energy of the objects i and $p_{z,i}$ is the z -component of their momentum.
- (iv) The transverse momentum of an object i is p_T^i .
- (v) The azimuthal difference between two objects i, j is $\Delta\phi_{ij} = |\phi_i - \phi_j|$.
- (vi) The difference between the rapidities of two objects i, j is $\Delta\eta_{ij} = |\eta_i - \eta_j|$.
- (vii) The opening angle between two objects i, j is $(\Delta R_{ij})^2 = (\Delta\phi_{ij})^2 + (\Delta\eta_{ij})^2$.
- (viii) The scalar sum of all transverse momentum is H_T .
- (ix) The number of non- b jets is n_j .

The input variables for the DNN for each event category are

- (i) 2-lepton, 2-jet:
 - $M_{Zh}, M_h^{\text{recon}}, M_{Zb_0}^{\text{recon}}$.
 - MET, $p_T^h, p_T^Z, p_T^{b_0}, p_T^{b_1}, p_T^{\ell_0}, p_T^{\ell_1}, H_T$.
 - $\Delta\phi_{Zh}, \Delta\eta_{Zh}, \Delta R_{Zh}$.
 - $\Delta R_{b_0b_1}, \Delta R_{\ell_0\ell_1}, \Delta R_{b_0\ell_0}, \Delta R_{b_1\ell_1}$.
 - Transverse mass of reconstructed Higgs and Z , $M_{T,Zh}$.
- (ii) 2-lepton, 3-jet: Same as 2-lep + 2-jet with:
 - $p_T^j, \Delta R_{hj}, \Delta R_{Zj}$.
 - n_j .
- (iii) 1-lepton, 2-jet:
 - $M_{Wh}, M_h^{\text{recon}}, M_W^{\text{recon}}$.
 - MET, $p_T^h, p_T^W, p_T^{b_0}, p_T^{b_1}, H_T$.
 - $\Delta\phi_{Wh}, \Delta R_{b_0b_1}, \min\{\Delta\phi_{\ell_0b_0}, \Delta\phi_{\ell_0b_1}\}$.
 - Transverse mass of reconstructed Higgs and W , $M_{T,Wh}$.
 - Transverse mass of W : $M_{T,W}$.
 - Transverse mass of $W + b_0$: M_{T,Wb_0} .

- Transverse mass of $W + b_1$: M_{T,wb_1} .
 - $|\Delta Y_{hW}| = |\eta_h - \eta_W|$, where $\eta_{h,W}$ are the Higgs and W rapidities.
- (iv) 1-lepton, 3-jet: Same as 1-lepton, 2-jet with:
- p_T^j, M_{hj}
- (v) 0-lepton, 2-jet:
- M_h^{recon} .
- MET, $p_T^h, p_T^{b_0}, p_T^{b_1}, H_T$.
 - $\Delta\phi_{Zh}, \Delta\eta_{b_0b_1}, \Delta R_{b_0b_1}$.
 - Transverse momentum of reconstructed Higgs and Z , $M_{T,Zh}$.
- (vi) 0-lepton, 3-jet: Same as 0-lepton, 2-jet with:
- M_{hj}, p_T^j .

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