Standard Model Higgs Prospects at the Tevatron

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Results from a Fermilab study of the sensitivity for higgs production at the Tevatron from RunII are presented. The study extends existing results by considering the production of higher mass higgs bosons and systematically combining results for all decay channels. In addition new analysis methods have been used. These significantly improve sensitivity.

1. Introduction

The standard model of particle physics has been studied with very high precision over the course of the past ten years, and no significant deviations have been found. Despite this, our understanding of the origin of electroweak symmetry breaking is still incomplete. This arises in large part because the only remaining undetected standard model particle, the Higgs boson, mediates electroweak symmetry breaking in the standard model. The highest available center–of–mass energy for the years 2002 to 2007 will be at the Fermilab Tevatron $p\bar{p}$ collider with $\sqrt{s} = 2.0$ TeV. It is natural to explore the sensitivity to higgs production at the Tevatron. This paper contains results from two year study conducted jointly by the Fermilab theory group and the CDF and DØ experiments.[1] The goal of the study was to quantify the higgs discovery potential at the Tevatron in the coming run II and possible extensions. Results are presented as the luminosities required to exclude higgs at the 95% confidence level, or to establish either 3σ or 5σ excesses over predicted backgrounds.

The starting points for this study are the higgs mass limits of $M_H > 115$ GeV from LEP2[2] and previous Fermilab studies[3][4]. This study extends the previous Fermilab results by (1) including additional standard model decays in the mass regions previously explored, (2) testing the sensitivity for higgs masses $M_H > 135$ GeV and (3) systematically combining results from all channels.[1] A detector simulation was developed which gives significantly more realistic event reconstruction than some of the previous studies used.

This paper has five sections. The first describes the production and decay of standard model higgs bosons and the simulations used in this study. The second and third sections contain results for standard model higgs production in the mass ranges $90 \leq M_H < 135$ GeV and $135 < M_H < 200$ GeV respectively. The fourth section presents the combination of the results in sections two and three. The fifth section describes a result for Higgs searches in the ttH production mode.[15] This work was done after the SUSY/Higgs combined report was released.

2. Production, Decay, Event Generation and Detector Simulation

The production cross sections and decay branching ratios for a higgs bosons have been calculated by a number of groups.[5] Those for a standard model higgs boson are shown in Fig. 1. These plots indicate that the highest cross section production modes are $p\bar{p} \to H$, $p\bar{p} \to WH$ and $p\bar{p} \to ZH$. The higgs decays dominantly to the most massive kinematically allowed final state. For $M_H < 135$ GeV, the dominant decay mode is $H \to b\bar{b}$ with a branching ratio of roughly 80%. For $M_H > 135$ GeV, the dominant mode is $H \to WW$. Thus, searches for lower–mass higgs will be looking for final states with at least two b–flavored jets, and the higher mass searches will have

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[1] In addition the results are recast for supersymmetric(SUSY) higgs production, and additional decay modes arising from SUSY models are considered. See the companion paper in these proceedings.

multiple (virtual) W bosons. For much of the mass range in question, the $p\bar{p} \to H$ mode has very poor signal-to-noise, and the most useful modes are the $p\bar{p} \to WH$ and $p\bar{p} \to ZH$ modes with the W or Z decaying to leptons. At the highest masses considered, there is some potential for using the $p\bar{p} \to H$ mode.

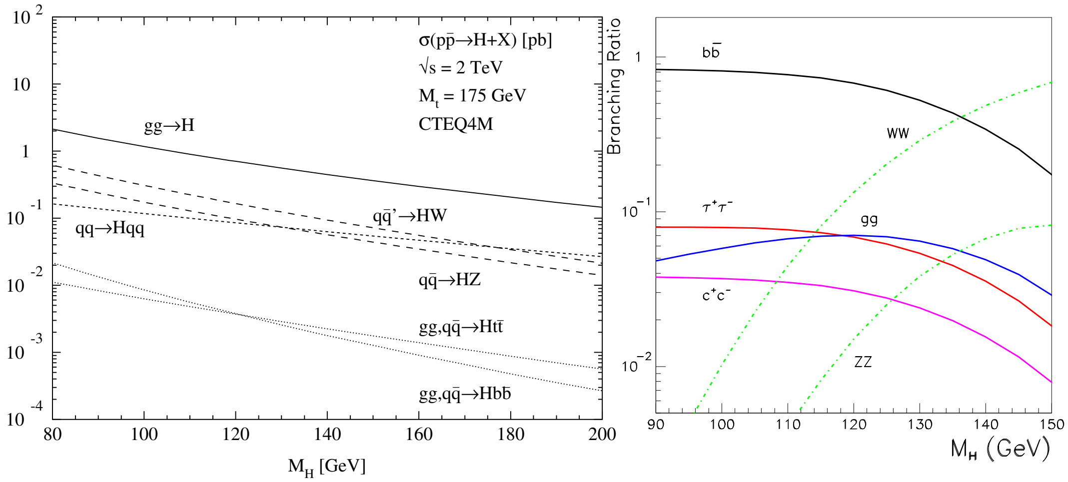

Figure 1: Production cross sections and decay branching ratios for the standard model higgs boson as a function of mass.[5]

Unless explicitly noted, events used in these analyses were generated using the Pythia[6], Isajet[7] or CompHep[8] programs. The generated four-vectors were then input to a detector simulation program, SHW, developed for the run II workshop[9]. This program uses parameterized resolutions for tracking and calorimeter systems and particle identification to perform simple reconstruction of tracks, calorimeter-based jets, vertices and trigger objects. The resolutions used represent a typical run II detector and are drawn from CDF and DØ internal studies. Particle identification efficiencies are included by parameterizing results from other CDF and DØ studies.

The SHW program was verified by comparing selection efficiencies between SHW and data or between SHW and well-established run I simulations used by CDF or DØ. The most stringent test was a comparison of nearly identical analyses of the $p\bar{p} \to WH \to (\ell\nu)(b\bar{b})$ channel. Two analyses of this channel have been performed, one based on a run I CDF simulation with the geometrical acceptance extended to correspond to the run II CDF detector and the second based purely on SHW. The first analysis predicts 5.0 signal events and 62.8 background events/fb^{-1} for $M_H = 110$ GeV. The second predicts 4.5 signal and 62.5 background events for the same conditions. The breakdown of the background into individual components suggests that the simulation is reliable for efficiencies at the 20% level.

3. Low Mass Higgs Searches, $M_H < 135$ GeV

When $M_H < 135$ GeV, the dominant decay mode is $H \to b\bar{b}$. Analyses have been performed for all $p\bar{p} \to WH$ and $p\bar{p} \to ZH$ final states.[2] The possible final states are: (1) $p\bar{p} \to WH \to \ell\nu b\bar{b}$, (2) $p\bar{p} \to ZH \to \nu\bar{\nu}b\bar{b}$, (3) $p\bar{p} \to ZH \to \ell^+\ell^- b\bar{b}$ and (4) $p\bar{p} \to WH \to q\bar{q}b\bar{b}$ or $p\bar{p} \to ZH \to q\bar{q}b\bar{b}$. The primary backgrounds to these channels are $W + b\bar{b}$ and $Z + b\bar{b}$ with the $b\bar{b}$ pair from gluon radiation, single top-quark production and top-quark pair production.

All analyses for these channels begin with a preliminary selection based on the number and type of final state objects. For example, the $p\bar{p} \to WH \to \ell\nu b\bar{b}$ analysis requires a charged

[2] The mode $p\bar{p} \to H \to b\bar{b}$ was considered, but the signal to noise was too poor for it to have any sensitivity when compared to the $p\bar{p} \to WH$ and $p\bar{p} \to ZH$ modes.

lepton with $E_T > 20$ GeV, missing transverse energy $\vec{E}_T > 20$ GeV and two b–tagged jets having $E_T > 15$ GeV. Similar selections are applied for the other channels. After the basic selection, a requirement is made that the mass of the reconstructed $b\bar{b}$ system be within (typically) 2σ of the generated higgs mass. Additional clean up requirements are also made. As an example, in the $p\bar{p} \to ZH \to \nu\bar{\nu}b\bar{b}$ channel, there can be no isolated tracks with $p_T > 15$ GeV. This rejects events with high-p_T leptons which failed the lepton identification. The resulting number of signal and background events corresponding to 1 fb^{-1} of data are given in table II. The $p\bar{p} \to WH \to \ell\nu b\bar{b}$ and $p\bar{p} \to ZH \to \nu\bar{\nu}b\bar{b}$ modes offer the best sensitivity with the $p\bar{p} \to ZH \to \ell^+\ell^- b\bar{b}$ mode not far behind. The all–hadronic final state looks quite difficult.

In addition to these analyses, a multivariate analysis using neural networks has been peformed for the $p\bar{p} \to WH \to \ell\nu b\bar{b}$ and $p\bar{p} \to ZH \to l^+l^- b\bar{b}$ channels. This style of analysis has been used with considerable success by DØ in the top mass[10] and all–hadronic top decay analyses.[11] The basic principle is to exploit correlations within an event in an automatic manner. The left panel of Fig. 2 shows the number of predicted signal and background events for $p\bar{p} \to WH \to \ell\nu b\bar{b}$ analyses. Each point in the figure represents one possible analysis. The band labelled "rgsearch" corresponds to hypothetical analyses performed using selections using the standard technique of sequential requirements applied to event variables, with each requirement a single–valued comparison such as $\vec{E}_T > 20$ GeV. The point labelled "TeV 2000" is the result from a previous Fermilab study[3]. The point labelled "neural net" is the result from the multivariate analysis. One sees that for a fixed background, the signal is increased by roughly 50% using the neural network. Similar gains are seen in all other channels in this mass range.

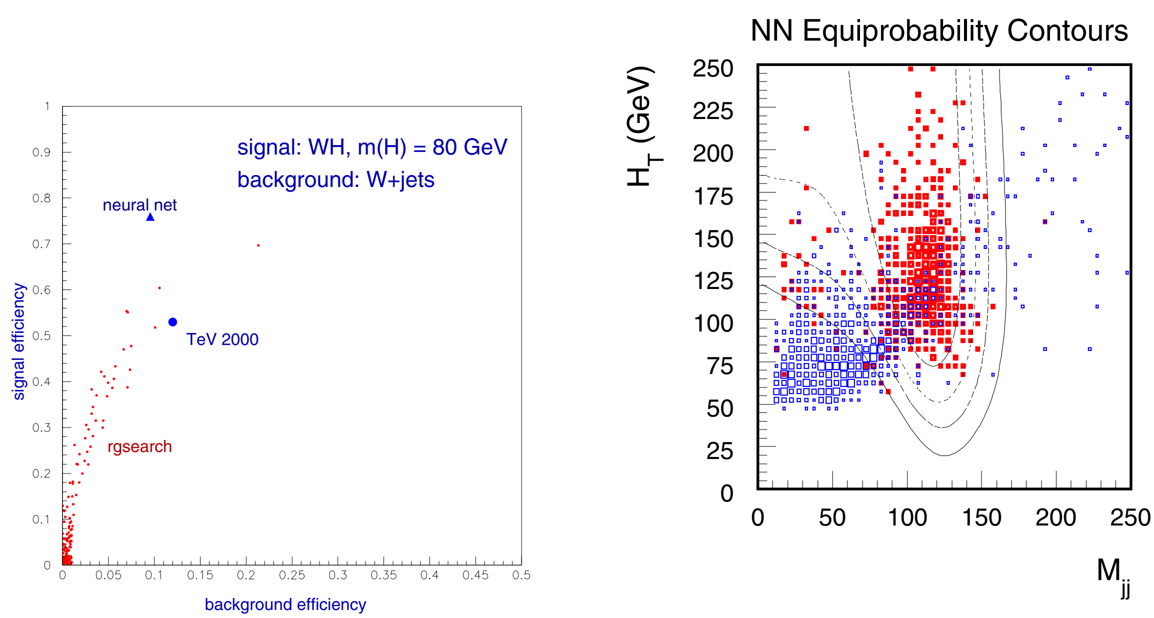

Figure 2: The left panel shows predicted signal and background selection efficiencies from the neural network analysis. Each point corresponds to a possible event selection. The point labelled "neural net" is the result from the multivariate analysis described in the text. The right panel shows neutral network output equal probability contours in the H_T vs. M_{jj} plane. H_T is the scalar sum of all jet energies, and M_{jj} is the invarient mass of the tagged dijet system. The open boxes are background events, and the closed boxes are signal.

3.1. Other Improvements

Results have also been obtained for hypothetical improvements in mass reconstruction and b–jet tagging efficiency. The analyses were repeated after artifically improving the reconstructed dijet mass resolution in steps up to a 50% better resolution. The results in Table II include an improvement in mass resolution of 30%. This level of improvement is expected when information such as charged track energy is used in the mass reconstruction in assocation with the

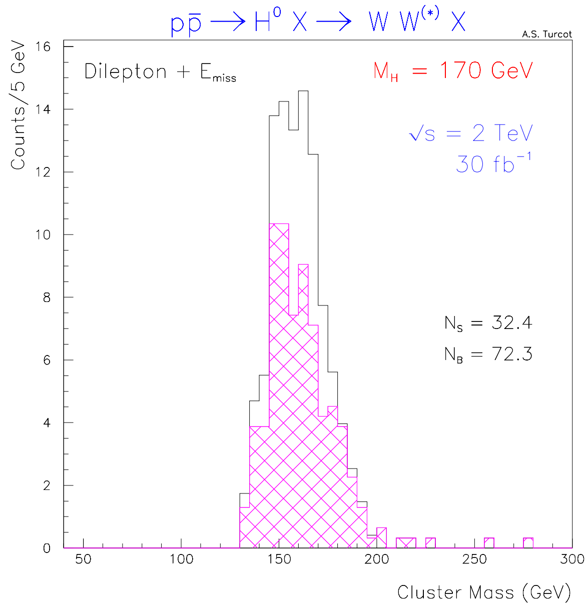

Figure 3: The cluster mass variable for background (shaded region) and for signal and background together (open region) for the $l^+l^-\nu\bar{\nu}$ analysis.

calorimeter–based jet energies currently used. Such an improvement has already been realized in a preliminary run I CDF analysis of the $p\bar{p} \to Z \to b\bar{b}$ channel.[12] Improved mass resolution offers considerable benefits because for a selection with a fixed signal expectation, the background will decrease as the resolution improves.

The effect of improved b–jet tagging has also been explored by artificially improving the second jet tagging efficiency by up to a factor of two. The gains from this improvement are not as important as those from mass resolution improvements because both signal and background increase with improved tagging efficiency.

4. High Mass Higgs Searches, $M_H > 135$ GeV

Previous Fermilab studies have concentrated on the lower mass higgs states which decay dominantly to $b\bar{b}$. This study includes analyses designed for final states in which the higgs decays to WW or ZZ instead of $b\bar{b}$. This corresponds approximately to $M_H > 135$ GeV. Two final states are considered: (1) Dileptons and neutrinos, $l^+l^-\nu\bar{\nu}$, from $p\bar{p} \to H \to WW$ and (2) Like-sign dileptons plus jets, $l^\pm l^\pm jj$, from $p\bar{p} \to WH \to WWW$ and $p\bar{p} \to ZH \to ZWW$.[13] The dominant backgrounds are standard model production of WW, WZ, ZZ, and $W(Z) + jets$ and $t\bar{t}$ and multijet events with misidentification arising from detector effects. For these analyses, the standard model sources dominate the detector effects.[3]

As for the low mass analyses, the initial selections are based on simple variables related to the boson decay–product kinematics. However, to reach usable sensitivity, the analyses then use either (1) requirements typically relating to angular correlations arising from spin differences between signal and background or (b) likelihood methods. In both cases new variables have been designed. Figure 3 shows one such variable used in the $l^+l^-\nu\bar{\nu}$ analysis, the cluster mass $M_C \equiv \sqrt{p_T^2(\ell\ell) + m^2(\ell\ell)} + |\vec{E}_T|$. A result of the tuning is that the signal and background have similar mass distributions, so these analyses must be treated as straight counting experiments. The numbers of expected signal and background events for the high–mass channels are given in table III.

[3]In general, the backgrounds arising from detector effects use conservative misidentification probabilities based on run I analyses by both experiments.

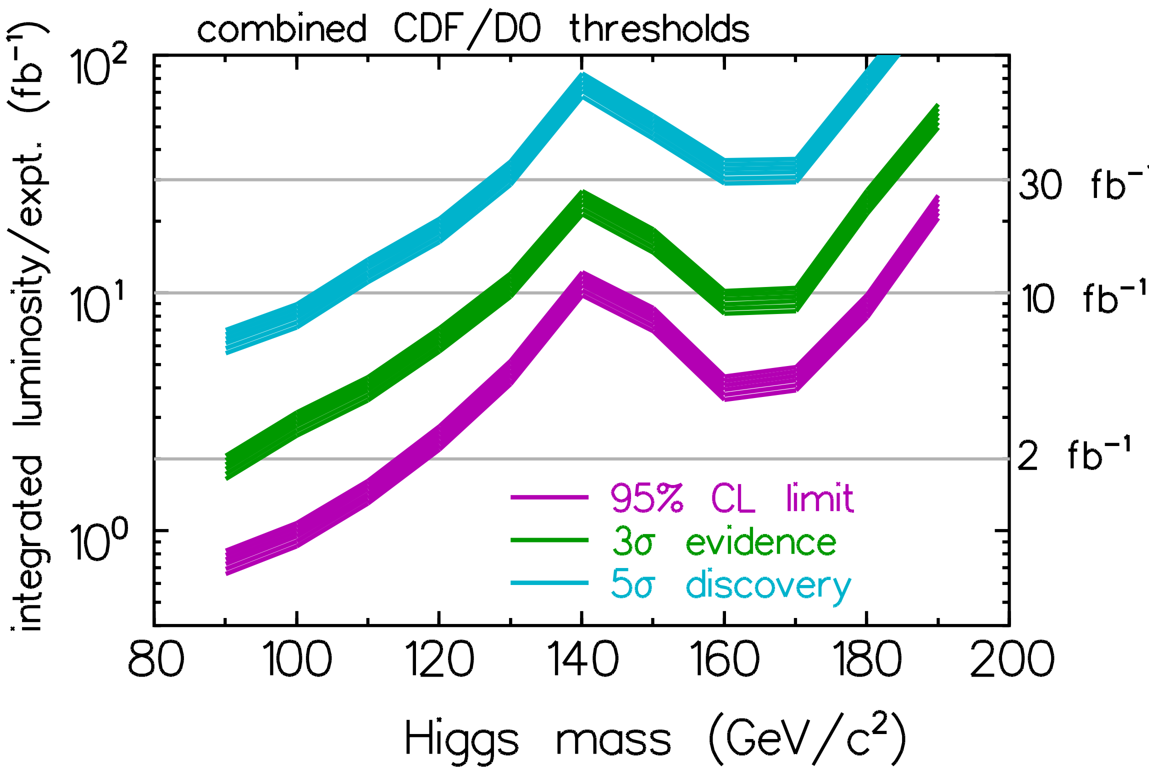

Figure 4: Luminosity required to achieve 95% confidence level exclusion, 3σ evidence and 5σ discovery as a function of higgs mass. The results use all channels and assume results from both CDF and DØ having equal sensitivity. The experimental uncertainties used are described in the text.

5. Combination of Standard Model Search Channels

The results in the preceeding two sections have also been combined to form a single unified result. Figure 4 shows the luminosities required for 95% CL exclusion, 3σ evidence and 5σ discovery as a function of standard model higgs mass. These contours include statistical and systematic errors[4] and the channels are combined using the prescription of reference [14].

6. Searches for Higgs in the $t\bar{t}H$ Channel

The cross-section for $t\bar{t}H$ production is shown as part of Fig. 1. Although the rate is considerably lower than that of the previously considered WH and ZH associated production, the $t\bar{t}H$ final state can be quite striking, giving a channel with very little background. An analysis of this final state has recently been made[15]. Both regions of Higgs mass are considered: (1) the low mass region in which the dominant decay is $H \to t\bar{t}$, and (2) the high mass region in which $H \to WW$ dominates. For the low mass region the final state is $WWb\bar{b}b\bar{b}$, and for the high mass region the final state is $WWW^*W^*b\bar{b}$.

In the low mass region, the selection requires one high-p$_T$ lepton (from a W decay), and six jets. In addition, at least three or at least four of the jets are required to have a b-tag. The b-tag efficiency is assumed to be 70%. This analysis begins with the reconstruction of the two top-quark systems. This is done in order to uniquely identify which of the b-tagged jets are from the Higgs decay. Figure 5 shows the resulting $b\bar{b}$ mass spectrum for the background, $t\bar{t}$+jets,

[4]The systematic errors are assumed to scale with luminosity. The scaling is expected to hold at least until 2% relative systematic errors are reached. Systematic uncertainties at this level do not limit the analyses.

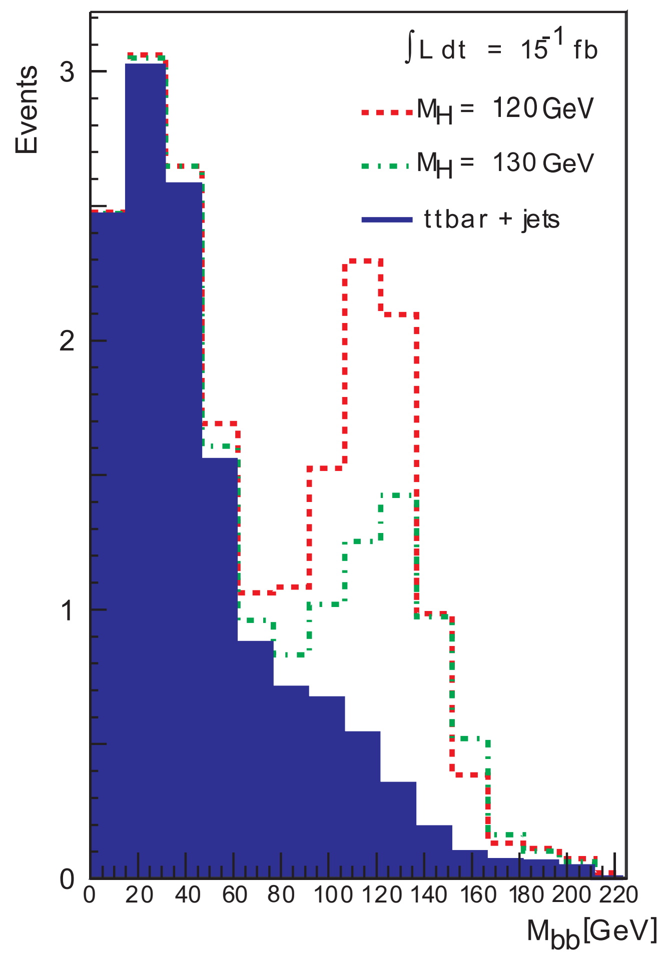

Figure 5: The dijet mass spectrum for b–tagged jets assigned to the Higgs decay in $t\bar{t}H$ events. The solid histogram is the background. The two histograms denoted by dashed lines are for Higgs particle. The higher of the two coresponds to a Higgs mass of 120 GeV; the lower, to 130 GeV.

$t\bar{t}+b\bar{b}$, $t\bar{t}+Z(\to b\bar{b})$ and WZ+jj, and two different Higgs masses. The normalization corresponds to an integrated luminosity of 15 fb^{-1}. The result is approximately 5 signal events, giving a 2.8(4.1)σ excess over background for one(two) experiment(s). Table I shows an approximate signal significance for this channel compared with that of the channels already discussed. The significance shown is valid only luminosities approaching 15 fb^{-1}. For lower luminosities, Poisson flucuations will somewhat reduce the sensitivity.

For the high mass region, the Standard Model backgrounds consist of $t\bar{t}$+jj, $t\bar{t}+W$, and $t\bar{t}+Z(\to l^+l^-)$, and have a very small contribution. In addition, however, instrumental backgrounds are present for this channel, and these are difficult to model. The selection assumes two possible final states: (1) a like–sign dilepton final state with the leptons coming from W decay, or (2) a trilepton final state, again with the leptons from W decay. The event counts from 15 fb^{-1} of data for the first case give three to six signal events, with a background significantly less than one event. For second mode, there are two signal events expected with a background much less than one event.

7. Conclusions

Studies of the experimental sensitivity to higgs production for Tevatron Run II and beyond have been carried out. Both standard model and supersymmetric higgs production have been considered. It is found that with 4 fb^{-1} of data, standard model higgs can be excluded at 95%

Channel	Rate	Higgs Mass (GeV/c^{-1}) 90	100	110	120	130
$l\nu b\bar{b}$	S	8.7	9.0	4.8	4.4	3.7
	B	28	39	19	26	46
	$S/\sqrt{B}$	1.6	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.5
$\nu\bar{\nu}b\bar{b}$	S	12	8	6.3	4.7	3.9
	B	123	70	55	45	47
	$S/\sqrt{B}$	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.6
$l^+l^-b\bar{b}$	S	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.6
	B	2.9	1.9	2.3	2.8	1.9
	$S/\sqrt{B}$	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.4
$q\bar{q}b\bar{b}$	S	8.1	5.6	3.5	2.5	1.3
	B	6800	3600	2800	2300	2000
	$S/\sqrt{B}$	0.10	0.09	0.07	0.05	0.03
$t\bar{t}H$	S				≈ 0.4	
	B				≈ 0.3	
	$S/\sqrt{B}$				0.7^1	

Table I A comparison of the sensitivity of the various low-mass final states including the newly studied $t\bar{t}H$ final state.

Channel	Rate	Higgs Mass (GeV/c^{-1}) 90	100	110	120	130
$l\nu b\bar{b}$	S	8.7	9.0	4.8	4.4	3.7
	B	28	39	19	26	46
	$S/\sqrt{B}$	1.6	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.5
$\nu\bar{\nu}b\bar{b}$	S	12	8	6.3	4.7	3.9
	B	123	70	55	45	47
	$S/\sqrt{B}$	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.6
$l^+l^-b\bar{b}$	S	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.6
	B	2.9	1.9	2.3	2.8	1.9
	$S/\sqrt{B}$	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.4
$q\bar{q}b\bar{b}$	S	8.1	5.6	3.5	2.5	1.3
	B	6800	3600	2800	2300	2000
	$S/\sqrt{B}$	0.10	0.09	0.07	0.05	0.03

Table II Numbers of expected signal and background events for each low-mass channel in 1 fb^{-1}. A 30% improvement in mass resolution over that from SHW has been assumed. See the text for details.

confidence over the interval $M_H < 125$ GeV and $155 < M_H < 175$ GeV. With 10 fb^{-1}, a standard model higgs boson will be seen as at least a 3σ excess over the mass ranges $M_H < 125$ GeV and $145 < M_H < 175$ GeV.

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Channel	Rate	Higgs Mass (GeV/c^{-1}) 120	130	140	150	160	170	180
$l^+l^-\nu\bar{\nu}$	S	–	–	2.6	2.8	1.5	1.1	1.0
	B	–	–	44	30	4.4	2.4	3.8
	$S/\sqrt{B}$			0.39	0.51	0.71	0.71	0.51
$l^\pm l^\pm jj$	S	0.08	0.15	0.29	0.36	0.41	0.38	0.26
	B	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58
	$S/\sqrt{B}$	0.11	0.20	0.38	0.47	0.54	0.50	0.34

Table III Numbers of expected signal and background events in 1 fb^{-1} for the high–mass channels.

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