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Observation of Higgs Boson Decay to Bottom Quarks (Article) [\(Open Access\)](#)

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Abstract

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The observation of the standard model (SM) Higgs boson decay to a pair of bottom quarks is presented. The main contribution to this result is from processes in which Higgs bosons are produced in association with a W or Z boson (VH), and are searched for in final states including 0, 1, or 2 charged leptons and two identified bottom quark jets. The results from the measurement of these processes in a data sample recorded by the CMS experiment in 2017, comprising 41.3 fb⁻¹ of proton-proton collisions at s=13 TeV, are described. When combined with previous VH measurements using data collected at s=7, 8, and 13 TeV, an excess of events is observed at m_H=125 GeV with a significance of 4.8 standard deviations, where the expectation for the SM Higgs boson is 4.9. The corresponding measured signal strength is 1.01±0.22. The combination of this result with searches by the CMS experiment for H→bb in other production processes yields an observed (expected) significance of 5.6 (5.5) standard deviations and a signal strength of 1.04±0.20. © 2018 CERN.

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